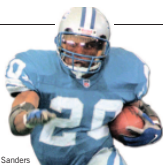


STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Sanders' evasive trail leads to Hall

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Former Control RB Barry Sanders



Greenert takes command of 7th Fleet

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Coming tomorrow
Stripes' one-on-one interview with Sen. John Kerry



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Bases try to sort out dumping problem

Japanese rules have some smuggling trash on base, piling up costs

Page 3



Some servicemember families try to circumvent Japanese recycling rules by dumping their trash on U.S. bases. However, bases in Japan have beefed up restrictions in order to stay tidy and cut down on soaring cleanup costs. Kadana Air Base on Okinawa, which controls all military housing on the island, spends about \$2 million on unauthorized trash dumped each year.

Jim Schulz/Stars and Stripes

"People just don't take the time. People are getting lazy and not putting [things] in the [right] place."

Butch Malone
Mechanical and sanitation chief,
Camp Zama,
Okinawa

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Paraguay supermarket fire: Authorities confirmed Friday that 399 people perished in last weekend's supermarket fire. But the toll in Paraguay's worst tragedy in decades could go higher as 144 people remain missing.

Earlier, the death toll had been put at 426, but Attorney General Oscar Latorre said 27 names had been stricken from the list of victims after reports filed by hospitals, morgues and rescuers were found to contain duplications and other errors.

Saudi terror arrest: Saudi police arrested a top Saudi terror suspect, officials said Friday, weeks after the al-Qaida-linked cleric reassured followers he was "taking all necessary precautions" to evade a government sweep.

Faris Ahmed Jamaan al-Showel al-Zahrani was No. 12 on the kingdom's list of 26 most-wanted terror suspects. More than half the others on the list have been either killed or captured in a crackdown that followed a series of bombings in Riyadh in May 2003.

Anna Lindh case: Sweden's top prosecutor said Thursday in Stockholm that he will appeal the ruling that threw out a life prison sentence for the man convicted of killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh in September.

A Stockholm appeals court last month overturned a lower court ruling and sentenced Mijalo Mijalovic to psychiatric care, saying he suffered from "borderline personality disorders" and should not be sent to prison.

States

Cassini spacecraft: The U.S.-European Cassini spacecraft discovered a new radiation belt around Saturn and has found that lightning in the ringed planet's atmosphere is occurring much differently now than when NASA's Voyagers flew by in the early 1980s, scientists said.

The discoveries announced Thursday are part of an early wave of information about the Saturn system; Cassini arrived June 30 on an exploration expected to last four years.

Church abuse: All but one of 46 people who accused priests of sexually abusing them as children have agreed to accept a more than



\$7 million settlement with the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., an attorney for the alleged victims and a spokesman for the diocese said. "For most of my clients, they want this miserable ordeal to end, so they've had to swallow some pride," plaintiffs attorney John Stobierski said Thursday.

Stobierski said his clients have been in arbitration meetings to decide the amount of each person's settlement, which will be at least \$80,000 and probably will average about \$150,000.

Condit lawsuit dismissed: A federal judge has dismissed a libel lawsuit filed last year by the wife of former Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., against USA Today and its parent company, Gannett Co.

U.S. District Judge Bruce Black ruled this week that New Mexico was the wrong jurisdiction for the case. Carolyn Condit had filed the lawsuit there because of a state law that lets plaintiffs sue up to three years after a published report.

The suit was filed in response to a July 27, 2001, USA Today article about the disappearance of Chandra Levy, a federal intern whose remains were found in a Washington park the following May.

Laci Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's trial is on hold until early next week so the defense can investigate recently discovered evidence that his attorney says might clear the former fertilizer salesman of killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi announced the delay after meeting with defense and prosecution lawyers in his chambers Thursday morn-

ing in Redwood City, Calif.

Outside court, Peterson attorney Mark Gerges said the evidence is "potentially exculpatory" and was "reluctantly" turned over by the prosecution.

The trial is expected to resume Tuesday.

Palestinian professor trial: Prosecutors in Florida putting a Palestinian former professor on trial on charges he raised money for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad will have to prove contributions to the group were used for terrorist attacks rather than for charity, a federal judge has ruled.

Sami Al-Arian and three others face a 50-count racketeering indictment that accuses Al-Arian of being the North American head of the Islamic Jihad. Al-Arian denies that either the charity or academic think tank he created were funding fronts for the group's terrorist attacks, which have claimed more than 100 lives in Israel.

Alien fish: A 2-pound northern snakehead was netted in the Potomac River, the 17th toothy non-native fish caught downriver from Washington, D.C., since May.

Fisheries technician Scott Herrmann snagged the 19-inch female at the Mount Vernon (Va.) Yacht Club on Wednesday.

The carcass was sent to the Smithsonian Institution for genetic tests.

Experts fear the snakehead, a predator with a voracious appetite, could destroy the river's ecosystem if left to breed unchecked in the shallow, grassy waters it prefers. One fear is that the river's smallmouth bass population could be decimated.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Illegal dumping a big mess for bases

Off-base trash from residents frustrated by recycling laws costs military thousands

BY JULIANA GITTNER
Stars and Stripes

Months ago, a woman burst into the Fleet and Family Support Center at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan and demanded help from Japanese staff member Nao Aoki, the intercultural relations training technician.

She lived off base, she told him, and was tired of discrimination from Japanese trash haulers. Every time she dragged her garbage to the curb, trash collectors wouldn't take it away, she said.

Aoki heard it before. For years, Americans clumsily navigated through the Japanese trash and recycling system, which involves separating items into as many as 18 categories and putting them outside at precise times. There's no room for error.

"It could be a simple thing," Aoki said, remembering the angry woman's concern. "She failed to separate or put things out at the right time. It is a very sensitive topic."

Japan's intricate recycling systems are essential in a country smaller than California with 3½ times its population. To reduce landfill use, a greater burden is placed on residents to recycle.

"It's a must because of the shortage of landfills here," said Rusty Kech, base operations specialist for Yokosuka's Public Works Team.

The burden can exasperate Americans living off base. To avoid it, some lug their trash on base to dump it, often illegally,

causing trouble for base waste-disposal agents.

In other cases, those living on bases don't separate properly. That costs time, money and effort for base officials, who have to separate it later or fix incinerators damaged by improper separation.

"People just don't take the time," said Butch Malone, mechanical and sanitation chief for the Directorate of Public Works, Operations and Maintenance Division at Camp Zama, Japan, where about a third of the trash picked up on base is improperly separated.

"People are getting lazy and not putting [things] in the [right] trash."

Garbage lockout

At Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, which controls all military housing on the island, officials spend about \$2 million on unauthorized trash dumped each year.

At Marine Corps bases on Okinawa, officials are considering locking up trash enclosures to keep unwanted garbage out.

"It's a big problem, and it's on all our bases," said Col. Brian Vincent, assistant chief of staff for facilities engineering, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

Marines on Okinawa pay more than \$300,000 alone for illegally dumped bulky items such as mattresses and appliances. That amount doesn't even consider ordinary garbage illegally dumped

by off-base residents, which is indistinguishable from authorized garbage, Vincent said.

Officials at Camp Foster, Okinawa, responded by locking up enclosures to keep out unauthorized dumpsters. Vincent said Other Marine bases, he added, could soon do the same.

"The harder you make it, the less likely they are to dump."

Solving salvage

The problem has driven other bases to come up with creative coercion.

Long ago at Yokosuka, open Dumpsters were overflowing, creating a mess and a cleanup expense. Base leaders instituted a stiff penalty to help stop it: motorists caught with bagged trash in a car when entering Yokosuka face a 30-day suspended license.

Base officials maintain a dump site for large-item disposal so those off base don't have to pay to discard old televisions, furniture and other large items.

At Yokota Air Base, Japan, leaders cracked down on off-base residents when the landfill began filling too quickly.

"It was very common to bring it on base because you didn't have to separate it," said Joe Kirk, referral and relocation specialist at the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron at Yokota. "The base had to start doing something."

The landfill wasn't designed for off-base residents' use. And off-base residents receive an extra allowance for their Japanese trash bins, Kirk said.

So the base beefed up efforts, instituting security to look for violators as they entered the base and threatening to penalize those who broke the rule. They worked with the local cities to produce pamphlets



JAMES JUNIOR/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Dairndale ensures cans are steadily fed into an aluminum crusher at Atsugi Naval Air Facility Recycling Center in Japan. Unsorted trash dumped on the base by off-base residents costs base officials money, as well as time and effort.

in English instructing off-base residents on the myriad trash rules in Japan.

The education and training worked, Kirk said. People haven't been found with trash since the changes were emphasized last year.

Camp Zama in Japan is another success. Two years ago, more than two-thirds of the garbage collected was not correctly separated, allowing nonburnable items to reach and damage the furnaces and incinerator. Much of it came from off base.

The base commander prohibited residents from bringing trash on base and instructed security at the gates to actively look for trash in cars, Malone said.

The process worked and off-base residents have all but stopped dumping. But Malone is finding on-base residents are also at fault. About a third of the collected on-base garbage is still not separated. Nonburnables that reach the incinerator wreak havoc, causing \$300,000 in damages last year, he said.

SEE MESS, PAGE 4

Sorting out municipal trash collection rules

Stars and Stripes

When off-base residents don't sort garbage properly, the mistakes can damage Japanese sorting machines, and most times Japanese trash haulers won't pick up items not bagged or sorted properly.

For most municipal governments in Japan, the garbage is collected at precise times and places in specific types of bags. Housing offices, landlords and the cities themselves can help residents learn the rules. Many base housing offices offer calendars in English with a city's trash days. Nao Aoki, intercultural-relations training technician from Yokosuka Naval Base, offers off-base residents a course entitled "Your Japanese Home" that, among other things, deals with proper recycling.

City officials say Americans often don't separate properly or use the black plastic bags sold on base but not authorized for city trash collection.

Trash collectors then leave improperly sorted or unauthorized bags behind, leaving the city to deal with the mess.

"We want them to follow the rules," said one city official in Yokosuka. "Espe-

cially during this time of the year when the garbage smells and causes a lot of trouble. We are having a tough time."

On Okinawa, off-base residents' garbage is collected under a special contract with private companies. One company, Koza Jujiro, only requires residents to separate their trash into burnable and non-burnable, said owner Kenjin Kaneshima, and most comply.

"About 90 percent of them cooperate and follow the rules," he said. "But, sometimes, there is trash that is not separated at all. We try our best and separate it by ourselves, but if it is repeated, we must leave the trash behind."

The following guidelines for Yokosuka City is an example of how garbage collection works in Japanese cities.

■ Burnable garbage includes items such as kitchen garbage, clam shells, non-recyclable paper, leather items, leaves, branches and disposable diapers.

■ Nonburnable garbage includes glass, ceramics, rubber, plastic items, aluminum foil, lighters, paint cans, cameras.

■ Cans, bottles, PET bottles and cans

need to be rinsed. PET bottles have a recycle mark that looks like a triangle with the number "one" in the middle. Aerosol cans need to be completely empty and bottle caps need to be removed.

■ Plastic containers and packaging include food trays, cartons, lids, cups, plastic bottles, plastic bags, Styrofoam, nets and tubes. Plastic containers with the recycle mark, which looks like a square with a Japanese word in the middle, can be recycled. All containers need to be empty and rinsed.

■ Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, paper cartons, clothes and other items are collected by local community groups.

■ Large items such as furniture and appliances are collected by cities for a fee. Some bases will accept these items. Check the housing office for details.

■ Air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators and washing machines need to be collected by the retail shops for recycling fees based on the Electric Appliance Recycling Law. These items cannot be collected as large size garbage by cities.

Staff writers Juliana Gittner, Hana Kusumoto and Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report.



MARK RANKIN/Stars and Stripes

Plastic bottles sit ready for recycling at the Camp Foster Recycling Center on Okinawa.

Mess: U.S. bases turn recyclables into cash

MESS, FROM PAGE 3

Many bases stopped the flow of garbage onto bases, but they still produce too much. The Okinawa Prefecture in June asked base leaders to curb their overall contributions to the prefecture landfill.

Some bases, including Atsugi Naval Air Facility and Sasebo Naval Base in Japan, have found a way to reduce trash and earn money through on-base recycling centers. Sasebo is expected to earn about \$250,000 from its center this year, said base spokesman Charles T. Howard. The money goes to base improvement projects.

The centers make it easy for people to separate and recycle.

Where people must separate

and recycle at home, it's not so smooth. At Yokota, like Zama, attention has moved from off-base trash to on-base. Residents on base are not sorting their trash, causing material that could be recycled to end up in the landfill.

The problem, Kirk and others say, is Americans aren't doing their part.

"That's what it boils down to," he said. "People don't want to take the time to separate. It's easy to throw everything in one bag."

"We're not doing a great job of recycling," said Vincent, from Okinawa. "It's work I know it. It's just the smart thing to do."

E-mail Juliana Gitter: gitterj@spjtimes.osd.mil

Americans in custody for suspected drug smuggling

By HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

Two American men were in Japanese custody Friday on suspicion of violating Japan's Narcotics Control Law, Japanese officials said.

Babe A. Cole, 25, a civilian worker at Yokosuka Naval Base, and William Jenkins, 27, a former civilian worker, were in Japanese custody after they were arrested Thursday on suspicion of smuggling synthetic narcotic drugs such as Ecstasy (MDMA) tablets and stimulant drugs using the military postal system, a Kanagawa Prefecture Police spokesman said. Their cases were referred Friday to Yokohama District Public Prosecutor's Office.

The police confiscated a total of 30,000 tablets of MDMA, 20,000 tablets of mixed MDMA and stimulant tablets and 150 grams of about 5 ounces of stimulants, although a market price of

209 million to 259 million yen (about \$1.9 million), police said.

The two men are suspected of making drugs from a post office in Canada in early July to a military postal address. The drugs were found during a customs inspection at Narita Air

port on July 29 and led to the arrest of the two men, the spokesman said.

Since a large number of drugs was confiscated, police will inspect to see if the case is linked to organized crime.

"The recent arrest of two people associated with the Navy base is a regrettable incident," a Yokosuka Naval Base spokesman said Friday. "We will continue to work closely with Japanese authorities to eliminate the use, possession or introduction of drugs into Japan by anyone associated with the Navy. The Navy has zero-tolerance policy for drug use, abuse or possessions."

E-mail hana.kusumoto at kusumotoh@spjtimes.osd.mil

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert took command Friday of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, even as most of his 21 ships and 20,000 sailors were at sea somewhere in waters he now watches over from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

On the deck of the USS Coronado, draped in red-white-and-blue bunting and filled with sailors in their summer whites and women in their summer dresses, Greenert assumed command from Vice Adm. Robert Willard as some 300 visitors watched.

Willard, after two years as 7th Fleet commander, is heading to the Pentagon to advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff on naval structure, testing and resources.

Greenert, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who began his career as a submarine officer assigned to the USS Flying Fish, most recently served as the Pacific Fleet's deputy chief of staff, a position in which Willard also preceded him.

The ceremony's mood was festive, the speeches lavish with praise. Adm. Walter Doran, Pacific Fleet commander who is in charge of the 7th Fleet from 1998 to 2000, said in his speech that the critical relationship between the United States and Japan means that only the best, most experienced commanders would be assigned to command Seventh Fleet.

Congratulating Willard for improving readiness during wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and lauding his abilities as diplomat, leader and warrior, Doran said the job of 7th Fleet commander "has never been done better."

In turn, Willard called Doran his "successor leader," as well as a "giant" whom it had been his pleasure to serve. Even the city of Yokosuka came in from an enthusiastic praise, when Willard referred to it as "mighty."

Greenert takes command of the Navy's largest forward-deployed fleet and what is a primary stabilizing force in Asia as tensions over North Korea's nuclear capabilities and the conflict between



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base as the new commander of the 7th Fleet. The traditional change-of-command ceremony was held on the USS Coronado on Friday.

Taiwan and China are high. In addition, there are continuing concerns about fundamental terrorism in the region and the maintenance of long-standing security treaties.

When Doran was relieved of 7th Fleet command four years ago, he quoted a predecessor, Adm. Carlisle Frost, who, despite going on to become Chief of Naval Operations before he retired, still said that being 7th Fleet commander was his favorite assignment.

One of the joys of the job, Frost had said, was: "My boss in Hawaii left me alone and Washington, D.C., never figured out what time it was."

Adm. Frost said this week from his home in Annapolis, Md., that he still thought that the 7th Fleet job was best in his career, particularly because of the great diplomatic responsibility he and other 7th Fleet commanders enjoy. He said an effective 7th Fleet commander needs "diplomatic skills, operational competence, being able to command forces and know what to do with the forces. You need a mixture."

Asked what advice he would give a new 7th Fleet commander, he paused, then said: "Know your people, know your forces, know your threat and be prepared every day to meet the threat that might hit you today or tomorrow."

But on Friday, the talk was more about baseball than about threats. Willard noted that Doran had given him a painting, done in the style of Norman Rockwell, featuring him as a "scruffy young batter," with Doran as the all-knowing manager in the dug-out, looking a little bored, wondering how the batter will perform.

Doran countered that in Willard, "the rookie had become The Natural."

But Greenert did them one better.

At the end of his short speech, during which he thanked not only naval superiors, but his children, he said to Doran, "If you're the manager, and Bob is The Natural ... I don't suppose that makes me The Babe, does it?"

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryn@spjtimes.osd.mil

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Abu Ghraib whistle-blower cites morals

BY ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The soldier who blew the whistle on colleagues abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison testified Friday it was "a moral call," because he was outraged by photos of detainees in sexually humiliating positions.

"It violated everything I personally believed in and all I'd been taught about the rules of war," Sgt. Joseph Darby said during a pretrial hearing for Pfc. Lynndie England. "It was more of a moral call."

"It was a tough decision because these people were my friends," said Darby, who was in the 372nd Military Police Company and, like England, was assigned to duties outside the secure area of the prison.

He said he received the now-notorious abuse photos on computer disks from Cpl. Charles Graner at the beginning of December. Darby said he wanted to see pictures of the aftermath of a prison riot that happened while he was on leave.

As he looked at the photos, "there was quite a large number of prisoners and poses with prison-

ers," Darby testified by telephone from an undisclosed location. "I was kind of shocked and bewildered and didn't know what to do."

Darby said he agonized for more than a month about whether to turn in the photos, testifying that he knew Graner was a ringleader in the abuse and would be returning to the prison soon from another assignment. He turned them over to the Army investigators Jan. 13.

"I decided I needed to turn them in now before he came back because I was concerned it was going to start again," said Darby,

who is from Cresaptown, Md., where the 372nd is based.

His tip led to charges against seven members of the unit and the images outraged people around the world. The photos, first made public on a broadcast of CBS' "60 Minutes II" in April, showed naked detainees stacked in human pyramids, posed in sexual positions, hooked to electrodes, and in one notorious shot with England, tethered to a leash.

A military judge is holding the hearing to decide whether England, a 21-year-old reservist from Fort Ashby, W.Va., should face a military trial on 13 counts of

abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos. If convicted, she could get up to 38 years in prison.

Darby acknowledged during his testimony that he had seen at least one image of detainee abuse as far back as October.

In testimony Thursday, military interrogators said they saw reservist guards putting naked prisoners in sexual poses, and torturing them by forcing them to drag their genitals on the ground and keeping them unclothed in their cells 24 hours a day. But they acknowledged failing to properly report the incidents up the chain of command.



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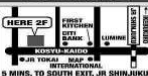
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U.S.: 300 Shiite militants killed in Najaf

An Iraqi talks with fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr after noon prayers at Sadr City in Baghdad on Friday. Fighting flared across Iraq as U.S.-led coalition troops battled militiamen in several cities for a second day in a resurgence of the widespread Shiite rebellion that ended two months ago.

AP



BY TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Coalition forces battled militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in several Iraqi cities Friday, saying they killed about 300 militants in Najaf over two days of fighting. Battles in other Shiite areas of the country have killed dozens more, according to Iraqi authorities.

The death toll among the anti-coalition fighters was among the largest in a single continuing engagement since the end of the war to oust Saddam Hussein last year.

Two U.S. Marines and an American soldier were killed in Najaf on Thursday, and 12 troops were wounded, the military said. Fifteen U.S. soldiers were wounded in Baghdad (see related stories on Page 4).

Meanwhile, Lebanon's state news agency reported four Lebanese truck drivers were taken hostage by insurgents on a highway between Baghdad and Ramadi. It wasn't clear when the men were seized, but a Lebanese official said earlier in the day that they hadn't been heard from for 24 hours.

In Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, U.S. helicopters on the day attacked militants hiding in a cemetery near the Imam Ali Shrine in the old city at Najaf's center, where smoke could be seen rising.

The fighting began Thursday in Najaf and has since spread to other Shiite areas across the country, as the truce that marked an end to a similar rebellion two months ago appeared to have been shattered.

Al-Sadr blamed the United States for the violence in Iraq in a sermon read on his behalf Friday in the Kufa Mosque close to Najaf.

The interim government had called America "our partner," he said. "I say America is our enemy and the enemy of the people, and we will not accept its partnership."

Regardless, al-Sadr's aides called Friday for a return to the truce. They asked for the United Nations and Iraq's interim government to stop the violence.

But the government said Fri-

day it would not tolerate independent militias, including the Mahdi Army.

The militias "are considered criminal and terrorist groups that we do not condone and that we will fight," said Georges Sada, spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

In April, the Mahdi Army militia launched sustained attacks on U.S. and coalition troops in several cities, the first major Shiite violence against the Americans. The confrontation dragged on for two months until Iraqi political and religious leaders negotiated a series of truces.

Each side blamed the other for breaking the cease-fire. The U.S. military accused the militias of repeatedly attacking police in Najaf, and al-Sadr loyalists accused U.S. forces of surrounding the cleric's house Monday.

Some of the worst violence hit the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, where the Health Ministry said 19 people were killed and 111 wounded during fighting Thursday and early Friday between U.S. troops and al-Sadr militants. Separate attacks blamed on al-Sadr's followers wounded 15 American soldiers in Baghdad.

Militiamen also seized four police stations in Iraq's southwestern city of Basra, witnesses said.

On Friday, helicopter gunships pounded militant positions in Najaf, while Italian soldiers exchanged gunfire with militants who attacked their positions and a police station in the southern city of Nasiriyah, an Italian military spokesman said. Clashes also were reported Friday between U.S. troops and insurgents north of the capital in Samarra.

Battles in Najaf have killed at least 13 civilians and wounded 58 others over two days, according to Najaf General Hospital officials.

The U.S. military said two Marines, one soldier and seven militants were killed Thursday and in around Najaf.

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, guerrillas attacked a convoy of 10 U.S. Humvees at dawn, witnesses said. U.S. helicopters fired rockets at insurgent positions, and the U.S. convoy pulled out.

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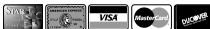
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Eight U.S. soldiers hurt in Afghanistan firefight

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents attacked American forces with rocket propelled grenades and explosives on roads in southern Afghanistan on Friday, injuring at least eight U.S. soldiers, two seriously, the U.S. military said.

The first attack occurred at about 7 a.m. as a 10-vehicle convoy moved along a road east of Daychopan in southern Zabul province.

About 10 suspected Taliban insurgents fired rocket propelled grenades at the convoy, prompting the U.S. forces to fire back with small arms.

One of the RPGs struck a Humvee, injuring five troops, two of whom were being prepared for evacuation to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

About six hours later, rebels set off a roadside bomb near Zabul's provincial capital, Qalat, as a U.S. convoy passed. Three soldiers were injured, but all returned to duty.

It was not clear if there were any rebel casualties, said Maj. Rick Peat, a U.S. military spokesman.

He said the military had no further information on either incident.

Central Asia, Russia hold terror exercises

The Associated Press

BALYKCHI, Kyrgyzstan — Russian jets and helicopters strung mountainside targets in northern Kyrgyzstan on Friday as elite soldiers stormed a village to practice rooting out militants in Central Asia's largest military exercises since the Soviet collapse.

The more than 2,000 troops in the exercises aimed to demonstrate the ability of countries in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a group of six former Soviet republics, to turn back a terrorist incursion.

It was also a chance for Russia to show it still is a force in Central Asia, where the arrival of U.S. troops after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States spawned a new struggle for influence in the strategic area.

Similar exercises will be held in the region next year, said Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov.

Aircraft from a new Russian-led base in Kyrgyzstan took part in the exercises for the first time, and Ivanov said Moscow plans to invest in improving the infrastructure of the base in the city of Kant. U.S. forces are also

based in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said the Kant base should develop more and become "a bastion of security" in Central Asia.

In the exercises, troops from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan battled 120 fictitious militants in a steep, barren Kyrgyzstan gorge. Helicopters fired a barrage of rockets, and fighter jets bombed a village to weed out militants. Special forces from all four countries then swept into the village.

A Japanese woman offers prayers after placing a lantern Friday night to honor those killed in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the world's first atomic bomb attack. Friday was the 59th anniversary of the bombing.

AP



Hiroshima marks bombing anniversary

By KATSUMI KASAHARA

The Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan — The mayor of Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack Friday by leading out at the United States for its pursuit of next-generation nuclear weapons, and called on a global ban on all nuclear arms by 2020.

Tadatoshi Akiba said Washington had turned its back on other nations and accused President Bush's administration of taking an "egocentric" view of the world.

"Ignoring the United Nations and international law, the United States has resumed research to make nuclear weapons smaller and more 'usable,'" he said at the 59th annual ceremony in the western city's Peace Memorial Park.

In June, the U.S. Senate ap-

proved spending for the Bush administration's research into but not development of — new nuclear "bunker buster" and "mini-nuke" warheads.

The nuclear bunker buster would be designed to hit targets deep underground, such as subterranean military command centers that are beyond the reach of conventional arms. The mini-nukes would have the explosive power of less than 5,000 tons of TNT — one-fourth the size of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The United States has had a self-imposed ban on nuclear testing since 1992.

But Akiba said the world needs to dismantle and ban all weapons like the U.S. atomic bomb that killed or wounded 160,000 people on Aug. 6, 1945.

He also branded North Korea's development of nuclear weapons a "worthless policy of nuclear insurance."

Ceremonies will be held Saturday on the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, on the southernmost main island of Kyushu. About 70,000 people were killed by an atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki from a U.S. aircraft, three days after the one that hit Hiroshima.

On Aug. 15, 1945, Japan's surrender ended World War II.

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Japan wants alleged deserter case ended

By CHISAKI WATANABE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan hopes to resolve a potential custody battle with the United States over accused U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins soon, an official said Friday, as Jenkins prepared to discuss his legal case with a U.S. military attorney for a second day.

Jenkins, 64, is accused of deserting his Army platoon in South Korea in 1965 and defecting to the communist North. Since Jenkins arrived to receive medical treatment last month, Tokyo has urged leniency so he can live in Japan with his Japanese wife, whom he met in North Korea.

Washington says it intends to formally request custody of Jenkins but has yet to do so.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said Jenkins would hold a second day of talks with legal counsel at the Tokyo hospital where Jenkins is staying. The lawyer is legally obligated to tell Jenkins about his options, which include facing a court-martial and seeking a plea bargain.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Thursday his government would do all it could to help Jenkins, his wife, Hitomi Soga and their two daughters to settle in Japan.

Soga told Toru Hasuke, an activist for victims of Japanese abducted by North Korea, that Jenkins was not bedridden and was walking. Hasuke also told public broadcaster NHK after visiting her Friday that Soga said she hoped Jenkins' legal situation could be resolved soon so she could take her family to her hometown on the island of Sado.

Soga has not directly addressed the media since she arrived in Japan last month with Jenkins and their two North Korean-born daughters.

Soga returned to her homeland in 2002 after being kidnapped by North Korean agents in 1978 and spending decades in the North.

Jenkins faces several possible charges, including desertion, which is the most serious and carries a maximum life penalty. He could also be prosecuted for charges ranging from aiding the enemy to encouraging other soldiers to desert their posts.

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Games never stopped wars

BY LISA HOFFMAN

Scraps Howard News Service

Last November, the United States joined 190 other nations to endorse a worldwide ceasefire in hostilities during the upcoming Summer Olympics.

The unanimous vote for a United Nations resolution calling for a 16-day truce was accompanied by lofty rhetoric about the ancient Olympic tradition of promoting peace and the chance the Games give the world to embrace non-violence.

"The Olympic truce can offer an invaluable opportunity for reconciliation," Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou told the U.N. last Nov. 3. "It is possible to create lasting peace from a pause in hostilities."

But don't expect any fighting pause in Iraq or Afghanistan—or anywhere else for that matter—when the games begin Aug. 13. The U.N. resolution lacks teeth to bind any nation to comply with it. And it certainly carries no weight among the terrorist and insurgent combatants at war in assorted parts of the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

"It is not going to impact our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan," a State Department official said.

In historical fact, the Olympic truce itself is far more symbolic myth than sacrosanct practice, antiquity experts say.

"The notion that the Olympic Games ended wars has been re-

"The ancient Greeks gathered at Olympia to honor Zeus with ceremonies that included sports events. Were they idealistic enough to end their wars? Not in a javelin's throw."

Harvey Abrams

Olympic historian

peated so often in the past that almost everyone believes it," wrote Harvey Abrams, an Olympic historian, in a 2000 research paper.

When they first were staged in 776 B.C. in ancient Greece, the Olympic Games were mainly a religious festival in honor of the Greek god Zeus, held in the sacred western region of Greece near Mount Olympus.

A treaty among three kings, who warred with each other at various times, promised that travelers to the Games could pass through enemy territory without being harmed. That bit of diplomacy was more in order to avoid angering Zeus by jeopardizing the games held in his honor, Abrams wrote. "Great punishment (by Zeus) would (and did)

come to those who failed to observe this sacred truce."

Called "ekcheiria" in Greek, the laying down of arms against athletes, artists and spectators bound to and from the Games was largely honored for hundreds of years. The truce never ended the warfare that continued unabated between rival city-states. Battles were even fought during the Games in 364 B.C. in the sacred grove of Olympia itself.

The Spartans, Macedonians, Romans and Barbarians plundered, looted and invaded through the ages while the Games were under way.

"For over 1,100 years, the ancient Greeks gathered at Olympia to honor Zeus with ceremonies that included sports events. Were they idealistic enough to end their wars? Not in a javelin's throw," Abrams wrote.

Until the last decade of the 20th century, not only did hostilities continue during the Games, they actually spurred the cancellation of Games in 1916, 1940 and 1944.

In 1992 the International Olympic Committee began an effort to officially revive the truce and imbue it with new meaning.

In 1993, U.N. member nations embraced a non-binding ceasefire resolution and, during the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, U.N. personnel invoked it in a diplomatic dance that led to a brief pause in the Serbian siege of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. Before every Game since, the Olympic committee has trumpeted the truce.



A couple feeds a baby at a mini waterfall in the background at a Syntagma square in Athens on Thursday. With new lights, marble and a mini waterfall, Athens' main square opened to the public Thursday, eight days before the start of the Olympic games.

Athens' main square opens in Olympic time

BY NICK MALKOUTT

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Newly fitted with lights, covered in marble and adorned with a small waterfall, Athens main square opened to the public Thursday as months of frantic renovation work ended eight days before the Olympics.

Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyianni opened the Syntagma Square, in front of Greece's Parliament, as dozens of other delayed transport and beautification projects were hastily finished in time for the Games.

The square has been dug-up and remodeled three times in the last decade. Now, there are two pavement cafes set amid rows of plane trees, a small fountain with a miniature waterfall and a tiny open-air museum displaying the remains of an ancient aqueduct.

Workers were still clearing dust and debris, and polishing marble a few hours before Thursday's ceremony.

Public Works Minister Giorgos Sofilas congratulated construction crews for overcoming delays, and said he hoped it would be the last time Syntagma will change.

"I hope Athenians will like it," Sofilas said. "It has a simple look, and it's a nice square."

The renovation was aimed at adding greenery to the square, im-

proving disabled access and transforming Syntagma back into the popular meeting place it once was.

Sofilas has been busy ribbon-cutting ahead of the games, and on Thursday also opened a 500-space underground parking lot downtown.

Over the next week, authorities plan to open two more renovated central squares, two pedestrian walkways and a suburban rail station linking Athens airport to Olympic sites.

Athenians can hardly keep up.

"It's an improvement. Let's hope they leave it like this and don't tear it down again in a few years," said 57-year-old city resident Nannis Pappaspyrou, as music from Athens' municipal band blared in the background at the opening ceremony.

Also Thursday, some 3,000 city volunteers took to the streets to help visitors find their way around the capital ahead of the Aug. 13-29 Olympics and Sept. 17-28 Paralympics.

The English-speaking volunteers, wearing yellow T-shirts and blue caps, will run 40 information counters and gather at points frequently by tourists.

"I am particularly proud of this initiative, which displays the human side of Athens. It's an opportunity to show our visitors the Athens we love," the mayor said.

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Dogs' fate 'dubious' in Greece

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Thousands of stray dogs being rounded up before the Olympics are not in danger of being killed or subjected to harsh treatment, Greek officials said Thursday.

"We are very sensitive about this issue," Deputy Agriculture Minister Alexandros Kontos said. "I am at the disposal of anyone who wants to inspect the conditions under which these animals are being kept."

Animal rights groups say as many as 15,000 dogs could be removed from Athens streets before the Aug. 13-29 Olympics. The government has placed the stray population at less than 5,000.

The government and Olympic organizers say they are opposed to euthanizing street animals.

Susan Sherwin, spokeswoman for the London-based World Society for the Protection of Animals, said the government and the International Olympic Committee hadn't responded to the organization's request for details about the mass collection.

"It's highly dubious that 15,000 dogs are going to be rounded up and kept somewhere and will be released after the Olympics," Sherwin said, speaking by telephone from Framingham, Mass.

IN THE STATES

Rick James dies at 56

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Funk legend Rick James, best known for the 1981 hit "Super Freak," died Friday, apparently of natural causes, police said. He was 56.

James died at 9:45 a.m. at a residence near Universal City, said Police Department spokeswoman Esther Reyes.

After his big hit, James' fame began to fade as he became embroiled in drugs, legal problems and health issues.

With his trademark Jheri curl, James was one of the biggest R&B stars of the 1980s, using danceable rhythms and passionate ballads to gain a wide following. Known as "Super Freak" — which MC Hammer used a decade later as the backing track



Singer Rick James, in 1984.

for his monster hit "U Can't Touch This" — James' last recorded "Mary Jane," "Ebony Eyes" and "Fire and Desire," a stirring duet with Teena Marie.

Six found slain in Florida home

DELTONA, Fla. — Four men and two women were found slain in a home Friday after one of them failed to show up for an early morning shift at a nearby Burger King, and authorities said the killer was apparently at large.

Sheriff Ben Johnson did not offer a possible motive or specify how the victims died. "There was an extreme level of violence," he said. Davidson said the bodies, along with a dead dog, were found in different rooms of the house in Deltona, about 25 miles north of Orlando. The victims, whose names were not immediately released, ranged in age from 18 to mid-30s, and they did not appear to be related.

From The Associated Press

Bush defends terror alert

BY TERENCE HUNT

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Authorities have evidence that new surveillance photographs were taken of Prudential Financial's headquarters in Newark, N.J., in January, a top homeland security official said Friday, even as President Bush defended the decision to issue terrorism warnings on the basis of old intelligence.

In the past, U.S. officials have said only that there was some evidence of new surveillance as late as January of this year.

But James Loy, the deputy secretary of homeland security and No. 2 official at the agency, told a reporter for The Associated Press, that new photographs were taken in January of the building's interior and exterior, and were not simply old photographs that had been altered or otherwise updated.

"Both inside and out," Loy told The Associated Press following a ceremony to confer badges on officers of the department's U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office.

Asked again, he stressed, "New pictures."

Friday's disclosure by Loy

came as Bush in Washington defended last weekend's decision to issue terrorism warnings and tighten security in New York, Newark and Washington, saying "the threats we're dealing with are real" even though some of the intelligence on which the government acted was as much as four years old.

Loy said he had no information on who took the new pictures. But he said possibilities included current or former employees, clients or delivery people.

"I have no information about the source of the photographs," Loy said. "It could be a customer, it could be an inside job."

In his speech in Washington, the president said the government had an obligation to tell Americans about the threats, even though some have questioned whether the warnings were politically motivated to strengthen the president's image as commander in chief in an election year.

"When we find out intelligence that is real, that threatens people, I believe we have an obligation as government to share that with people," Bush told a convention of minority journalists.

"Imagine what would happen if

we didn't share that information with the people in those buildings and something were to happen, then what would you write?"

On Sunday, authorities elevated alert levels on the belief that terrorists might be plotting attacks on specific financial institutions. The intelligence behind the warnings — including hundreds of detailed surveillance photos, sketches and written documents — came from sources including a seized laptop and computer discs and from interviews after the mid-July arrest of a young Pakistani computer engineer, Mohammad Naem Noor Khan. But some of that intelligence dated back to information gathered by would-be terrorists as early as 2000.

In the appearance before news people, Bush declined — as he has in the past — to say how long American troops would be assigned to Iraq or when the troop-level would be cut back.

"We will stay there until the job is completed and our commanders on the ground tell us," Bush said.

Bush said that a questioner was "trying to get me to put a timetable out there. I'm not going to do it. Then when the timetable is busted they'll say, 'I told you.'"

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Clinton skips SNL

NEW YORK — Bill Clinton has been all over television promoting his new book. But one show he won't be visiting is "Saturday Night Live."

The former president has turned down an invitation to be guest host of the NBC sketch-comedy series next season, spokesman

Marc Liepis confirmed Friday. No reason was given for Clinton rejecting the offer, first reported by TV Guide Online.

But far from going into retreat, Clinton will sit down with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "Daily Show" Monday at 11 p.m. EDT, presumably to say more about his best-selling memoir, "My Life," as well as global affairs and the presidential race.

This appearance comes on the heels of Clinton's guest shot on CBS' "Late Show" Tuesday. Meanwhile, Clinton gave Letterman a rare ratings win over NBC's "Tonight Show," delivering the biggest audience for the "Late Show" since last March, when Janet Jackson drew a crowd for her first post-Super Bowl interview.

From The Associated Press

George P. Bush to wed

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — George P. Bush may still be a rising star in the political world, but he will no longer be among the country's hottest bachelors.

The 28-year-old son of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and nephew of President Bush plans to wed Amanda Williams on Saturday at

a private ceremony at the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine. George Prescott Bush once held the No. 4 spot on People magazine's list of 100 most eligible bachelors and has been a charming, telegenic presence in the campaigns of his uncle and his father.



Bush

The two met while attending law school at the University of Texas at Austin. They began dating after Bush asked her if she wanted to join him in a round of golf.

The bride-to-be works for the Jackson Walker law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, specializing in commercial and labor litigation.

This fall, George P. Bush will leave his position as an assistant to U.S. Judge Sidney Fitzwater in Dallas and will join the Dallas office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where he will work in corporate law. The firm is one of the world's largest and earns millions lobbying in Washington.

From The Associated Press

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N.Y., N.J. homes searched in anthrax probe

BY JEFF LINKOUS

The Associated Press

DOVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. — FBI agents investigating the 2001 anthrax attacks searched the homes of a physician who, days after the first anthrax mailings, had applied for a patent for a system to identify chemical and biological attacks.

Hours after Thursday's raids, Kenneth M. Berry was charged with assault for allegedly fighting

with four family members at a seaside motel, authorities said. Berry, 46, of Wellsville, N.Y., was released from jail on \$10,000 bond.

More than three dozen agents, some in protective suits, combed through two Wellsville homes listed in property records as Berry's past and present addresses.

The investigators in Wellsville, a village of 5,000 residents near the Pennsylvania line, wrapped up their daylong search after dark but did not reveal whether they

found anthrax, Mayor Brad Thompson said Friday.

About 250 miles to the southeast, officers searching the summer home of Barry's parents Thursday brought out garbage bags that appeared to be filled with bulky contents, said Jonathan DeGraw, 26, who rents the house next door.

They also removed boxes containing clear plastic bags.

Two flatbed trucks hauled away two vehicles, according to another

neighbor, Adam Fadel. One of the vehicles was returned Thursday.

There was no sign of law enforcement activity there Friday morning. Someone appeared to be inside, but no one answered a reporter's knock at the door.

An FBI spokesman in Washington said the FBI and Postal Inspection Service were searching multiple locations in Wellsville and Dover Township as part of the anthrax probe. He declined to say what agents were seeking.

"There is no present danger to public health or safety," said Joe Parris, FBI supervisory special agent.

Attorney General John Ashcroft had labeled Dr. Steven Hatfill, a former government scientist and biochemist expert, as a "person of interest" in the case. Hatfill, who once worked at the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., had denied any wrongdoing and sued Ashcroft and other officials. The lawsuit is pending.

Experts: More attacks don't mean more Texas sharks

BY PAM EASTON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Three shark attacks off the Texas coast in the past two months are unusual but don't mean there are more sharks than normal along the beach or that they are getting bolder, marine biologists and other experts say.

"The public needs to understand that is just normal behavior and they are the ones that need to be more cautious," said Jan Culbertson, a marine biologist with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. "Right now, there is a lot of the bait in the water."

The fishing has picked up tremendously. So the sharks are in there looking for the fish, just like we are."

The Texas coast rarely has as many as three attacks, but it isn't unprecedented. The International Shark Attack File, which has gathered such data worldwide for decades, lists 1990 as the last year Texas had three attacks. Most years there are one, two or none. Texas wildlife officials say there have been no fatalities since the 1960s. Florida leads the nation in shark attacks, according to the ISAF, often logging two to three dozen a year.

But on July 26 a shark bit an

Bite taken out of shark attack scare

Despite public concern over three recent shark attacks in Texas, authorities say the sharks aren't behaving unusually. Texas has an average of one attack a year, none fatal since the 1960s.

TOTAL U.S. ATTACKS	FATAL	TOTAL
1992 25	2	1
1993 19	0	0
1994 32	1	0
1995 45	0	1
1996 20	0	0
1997 31	0	2
1998 28	1	1
1999 38	0	0
2000 54	1	2
2001 54	3	2
2002 47	0	1

Source: International Shark Attack File AP

11-year-old boy, and the next day another shark bit a 19-year-old woman in Galveston, about 45 miles north of the first attack. The first attack was also in Galveston, on June 1; it left a boy injured.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman Tom Harvey agreed the incidents' timing was unusual, "but what we're seeing is probably more of a media frenzy than a shark-feeding frenzy."

All three attacks this summer have occurred when youngsters were wading near a school of fish.

Alabama executes prisoner, age 74

BY SAMIRA JAFARI

The Associated Press

ATMORE, Ala. — After waiting 27 years to see his mother's killer put to death, Jimmy Montgomery didn't think it mattered that the condemned man was 74 years old.

The fact that James Barney Hubbard was the oldest prisoner on Alabama's death row was all the more reason for the state to go ahead and execute him Thursday, Montgomery said.

Hubbard died by lethal injection for the 1977 murder of 62-year-old Lillian Montgomery of Tuscaloosa. She was shot in the head and robbed after befriending Hubbard, who had been released from prison after serving 19 years for a 1957 killing.

Her son said he was disappointed that Hubbard offered no last words or apology to the four generations of the Montgomery family who attended the execution at Holman Prison near Atmore.

A pale, white-haired Hubbard maintained eye contact with his daughter Barbara McKinney, who witnessed the execution

from another room, until he died at 6:36 p.m.

His attorney, Alan Rose of Boston, and spiritual adviser, John Courtney, also attended.

Earlier Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to deny a stay of execution for Hubbard.



Hubbard

Riley rejected a request to commute Hubbard's sentence for what he called a "heinous and violent" crime.

Gov. Bob Riley said he was not swift in this case, but justice must be delivered," Riley said.

According to the Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Hubbard is the oldest person executed in the United States since 1941, when James Stephens of

Colorado was executed at age 76.

In his filing with the Supreme Court, defense attorney Alan Rose said that although "Hubbard's age-based execution claim appears to raise a novel issue," it was in line with other claims of cruel and unusual punishment.

The state in arguing for the execution said that "murderers — especially repeat killers like Hubbard — do not deserve 'leniency' merely because their life of crime does not result in the imposition of a death sentence until later in life."

Hubbard, in his federal appeals, said he didn't speak up about his mental state and health sooner because the conditions didn't exist when he was younger. Court filings on his behalf say he has been diagnosed with dementia, along with other ailments.

Chief Justice of the United States William Rehnquist and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas voted to deny the stay.

Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer would have granted it.

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Pentagon working to ensure military ballots get counted

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Pentagon leaders have taken steps to correct a voting oversight that four years ago kept hundreds of ballots from being counted in the nation's highly contested presidential election.

In the 2000 election, Florida election officials threw out hundreds of overseas absentee ballots because they lacked postmarks, a problem highlighted because of the close count in votes cast for Al Gore and George Bush at the polls, said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness.

While federal policy did not require ballots have postal cancellation marks, in order to sidestep another debacle the Pentagon has equipped voting assistance officers worldwide, including those deployed on ships, with cancellation devices that will postmark and date election ballots, he said.

And many states have made it easier for voters to register and cast their ballots in changes such as allowing faxed-in requests and submitting forms that can be down-

loaded from the Internet, Abell said.

With elections three months away, it's boiling down to crunch time for military and overseas voters.

The Defense Department is responsible for assisting more than 6 million potential voters get necessary absentee information and voting materials, including 1.4 million uniformed voters, 1.3 million dependents of voting age, 100,000 federal civilian employees overseas, and even 3.7 million civilians living overseas not affiliated with the government. A 1998 executive order makes DOD responsible for assisting ex-patriates or U.S. citizens living and working overseas, even if they have no ties to the federal government, Abell said.

Of the 1.4 million uniformed voters, 492,000 are serving or stationed outside of the United States, including the 130,000 active Reserve and Guard troops deployed to Iraq, and those in Kuwait, Afghanistan and on ships.

Since each state has varying deadlines for registration and submitting ballots, the Pentagon pro-

vides a general timeline that voters should follow to ensure their vote gets counted, Abell said.

Voters should register and request ballots no later than the week of Sept. 3-11, and should submit actual ballots the week of Oct. 11-15, he said.

Those guidelines "should" ensure that votes are registered, even if sent "from the remotest part of the world to the remotest part of the United States," Abell said.

To expedite the mailing process, the Pentagon teamed with the U.S. Postal Service to use specially marked envelopes to ship election materials overnight, and postal clerks give those envelopes priority.

The Pentagon's Federal Voting Assistance Program maintains a Web site that is a "one-stop information center." The site is www.fvap.gov.

To make registering and voting easier, the Pentagon worked with a number of states, and now 32 states accept faxed ballot request forms, up from 23, he said. Detailed lists are posted on the FVAP Web site.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Keyes reportedly to run for U.S. Senate

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former presidential hopeful and talk-show host Alan Keyes has agreed to become Illinois Republicans' U.S. Senate candidate and will announce his intentions Sunday, a senior party official said Friday.

Keyes, a resident of Maryland, would face rising Democrat star Barack Obama in the race for the seat of retiring Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, a Republican. The Republicans were forced to find a candidate after primary winner Jack Ryan dropped out in late June amid embarrassing sex club allegations in his divorce records.

Keyes was carefully planning a high-profile introduction to Illinois voters, beginning Sunday, said the Republican official familiar with the decision. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing Keyes' wishes to make his announcement public Sunday.

The decision was first reported by the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times in their Friday editions.

Bill Pascoe, a political adviser and Keyes friend, said he could not confirm that Keyes had accepted the nomination.

"Alan is honored and gratified by the offer that's been made to him. He recognizes it's the result of very serious and deliberate discussions and believes he owes it to members of the committee, to Republicans in Illinois and in fact every voter of Illinois to consider this offer with the same measure of deliberation," Pascoe said.

Keyes, a two-time presidential hopeful who also ran two failed Senate campaigns from his home state of Maryland, opposes abortion and gay rights, wants to replace the income tax with a sales tax and calls affirmative action or positive discrimination a "government patronage program."

Obama, a state senator making his first run for national office, gained prominence as a keynote speaker at last month's Democratic National Convention in Boston. His father is Kenyan and his mother American.

The race would be the first U.S. Senate election with two black candidates representing the major parties and almost assure Illinois would produce the fifth black senator in history.

Keyes will have to establish residency in Illinois by Election Day, according to federal law.

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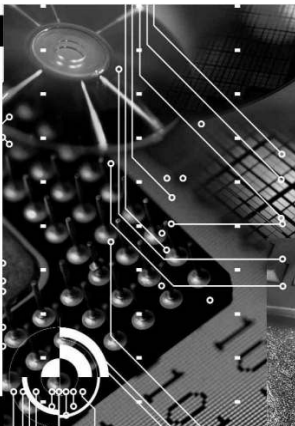


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AP photos

Minutes after the opening of the post office, residents check for mail last night in Nalcrest, Fla. The Nalcrest retirement community opened in 1963, giving retired letter carriers an inexpensive and sunny place to retire. The community boasts no personal mailboxes and no pesky mail carrier-chasing dogs.

When it's time to mail it in Fla. community houses only retired letter carriers

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

NALCREST, Fla. — Welcome to Nalcrest, population 800 and ZIP code 33856, where the nation's letter carriers come to retire when they've set down the bag for the last time.

The tiny town with plenty of mail bonding was created by the postal workers' union more than 40 years ago for couriers done in not by rain, sleet or snow, but by age.

Its rows of apartments are tidy, with many homes proudly displaying the union's logo. Pets, including mail carrier-chasing dogs, are forbidden. So are home mailboxes. Residents pick up their mail at the post office in the town square, a hub adorned with a statue commemorating a 19th-century postmaster.

"This is the greatest thing going," said 79-year-old Joe Giordano, who retired from New York's Westchester Station after 40 years of delivering mail. "How can you find any fault with a place like this?"

Florida has long been a destination for retirees, and almost 18 percent of the population is 65 or older. The state is also home to several specialized retirement communities. The retired mail carriers are kin to the carnival workers of Gibsonton and the gays and lesbians at Palms of Manasota in Palmetto.

The idea of a retirement community had been discussed for years, and in 1958 union president William C. Doherty sold membership on the idea.

"At the time, old letter carriers were broken down. They were worked until they literally could not work anymore," said Sean McCormally, assistant editor of the union's monthly magazine, Post Record.

The first residents arrived in May 1963, paying monthly rents that ranged from \$75 for an efficiency to \$95 for a two-bedroom.

"People at that time weren't making much money in the post office, and Doherty figured if they could retire, sell the homes they had up North and come down here, then they could live comfortably on this inexpensive rent," said Jerry Kane, Nalcrest's general manager.

Rents have remained cheap, currently running from \$285 to \$305.

Nalcrest, about 50 miles south of Orlando, took its name from the union: National Association of Letter Carriers Retirement Education Security Training Foundation.

Demand has remained strong over the years, as couriers seek out Florida's sunny climate.

"That's what we like about down here. It's summer all the time," said Jack Jewell, 76. He's summer for 32 years in Philadelphia before retiring in 1991.



Retired letter carrier Roger Riley, originally from Redford, Mich., walks across a bridge over a canal in Nalcrest on his way to pick up his mail at his post office box last month.

Edie Raymond, a former day-care center owner, has run Nalcrest's post office for three years and is much like a cafeteria cook at a culinary academy. In a mail community, she is non-postal. The former Massachusetts resident said her customers let her know they are watching with professional interest.

"In the beginning it was a little tough, because I don't think they wanted to accept somebody who wasn't postal," said Raymond, 71. "Being retired postal workers, they all wanted it done their way but they all had a different idea of how it should be done. In the end, they've all come around."

Nalcrest was supposed to be one of two communities on Lake Weedyakapka where retirees came from a specific vocation. Down the road is Redhaven, built at the same time with federal employees, including the postal clerks' union, in mind. Its design is a mirror image of Nalcrest, but the community long ago turned to private ownership and opened its doors to all comers. It is now called Lakeshore Club Villas.

Kane knows why the letter carriers stayed while Redhaven's residents didn't.

"We always deliver."

Home-schooling a growing choice

BY BEN FELLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For more and more students, homework has become a room at home.

Almost 1.1 million students were home-schooled last year, a 29 percent increase since the last government survey in 1999. The growth comes as more parents, frustrated with traditional schools and limits on curriculum, say they would rather handle lessons themselves.

The estimated figure of students taught at home comes from parent surveys. The results were released Tuesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, part of the Education Department.

Parents offered two main reasons for choosing home-schooling: 31 percent cited concerns about the environment of regular schools, such as drugs, lack of safety and negative peer pressure; 30 percent wanted the flexibility to teach religious or moral lessons.

Sixteen percent said they were dissatisfied with academic instruction at other schools.

"There's potential for massive growth," said Ian Slater, spokesman for the National Center for Home Education, which promotes home-schooling and tracks laws that govern it.

"Home schooling is just getting started," he said. "We've gotten through the barriers of questioning the academic ability of home schools, now that we have a sizable number of graduates who are not socially isolated or awkward — they are good, high-quality citizens. We're getting that mainstream recognition and challenging the way education has been done."

In perspective, the 1.1 million home-schooled students accounts for a small part — 2.2 percent — of the school-age population in the United States, young people age 5 through 17.

Slatter said the new figures accurately reflect the growth of home-schooling but underestimate the number of children involved; his group says it is 2 million.

In the government's view, home-schooling means students spend at least part of their education at home and no more than 25 hours a week in public or private schools. Overall, more than four out of five home-schooled students spend no time at traditional schools.

A separate federal report showed a rising number of teenagers are skipping school for fear of getting hurt, even though reported school violence is down.

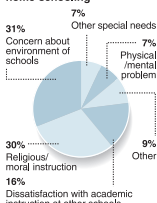
That sense of anxiety — fueled

Home-schooling on the rise

According to a 2003 survey, the number of students being home-schooled has increased by 29 percent from 1999. Parents were asked whether certain reasons for home-schooling applied to them and which one was most important.

Home-schooled students,
ages 5 to 17

1999 850,000
2003 1,100,000
Various reasons reported for home-schooling



SOURCE: National Household Education Surveys Program

AP

by terrorism warnings, high-profile school shootings and a desire to keep children out of harm's way — probably has helped home-schooling grow, said Ted Feinberg, assistant executive director of the National Association of School Psychologists.

Home-schooling presents several questions that must be considered, he said. Among them: Do parents with no formal training as teachers know how to handle a variety of subjects or to tailor instruction for children of different ages? Do students get the same materials they would have at schools, from books to science labs? Are families with two working parents prepared to live off a single income so that one parent can teach at home? Also, Feinberg said, parents must consider whether their children will emerge from home schooling with limited exposure to other children and various cultures. More federal research is needed to help resolve such questions about home-schooling, he said.

"At some point, children are going to have to interact with the rest of the world," he said. "If they haven't had the opportunity to build their emotional muscles so they have that capacity to interact, how effective are they going to be outside their cloistered environment?"

Once isn't enough for some bookworms

BY HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

Lisa Clemmer, a 37-year-old bibliophile from Richmond, Va., remembers the first time she read Alice Walker's "The Color Purple." She was in college, at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Walker's novel introduced her to a world she knew nothing about.

"The Color Purple" proved so transformative that Clemmer has read it four times.

"I like to go back just to reinvigorate that feeling. I get all tingly from it. It moves me to a different time and place," says Clemmer, who just a year ago last read Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning story of blacks in rural, segregated Georgia.

Clemmer's taste is not unique. According to a study by the American Library Association, "The Color Purple" ranks among the fiction most commonly re-read. Others include the Harry Potter books, the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and Shakespeare's plays.

"I think books that get re-read have characters or scenes or lessons that people want to go back to again and again," says Neal Wyatt, the head of an ad hoc ALA committee that analyzed what books are re-read.

"Some books need repetitive readings just to feel like you got it. And sometimes it's not even fair to say the books are re-read because you're a different person each time you read them," Wyatt said.

Also cited by the committee: F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie," Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh."

The ALA committee was composed of librarians and editors with the trade publications Library Journal and Booklist.

The findings were not ranked and were based both on the committee members' personal opinions and those of library patrons.

Only novels, plays and short stories were considered, panel officials said. The Bible and the Quran are likely the most re-read texts in the world.

The ALA selections all share one quality: they were encountered in youth, whether assigned in school, read to by a parent or discovered on one's own. But favorite works are revisited for various reasons. "A Christmas Carol" is a holiday classic, while the summertime setting of "Gatsby" makes it an ideal beach read.

One committee member, Joyce Saricks, says that the frequent staging of Shakespeare's plays inevitably leads to re-readings of the texts.

"I get a lot of people who tell me that they're going to see a production of 'King Lear' and they want to read the play. And then after they see the production, they might re-read the play again," says Saricks, who recently retired after more than 25 years at the Downers Grove Public Library in suburban Chicago.

For professional writers, re-reading

can be as much for education as for pleasure. Susan Minot, whose books include the novels "Monkeys" and "Folly," said she likes to go back to the works of William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway. She doesn't read the whole book necessarily, just enough to remind her of why those writers matter.

"They were probably the earliest authors who blew my mind, and so they're the ones I'll check back with, getting re-acquainted with the voice," she says.

Richard Ford, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Independence Day," said he likes to re-read Walker Percy's "The Moviegoer" in a "a purely sensual way."

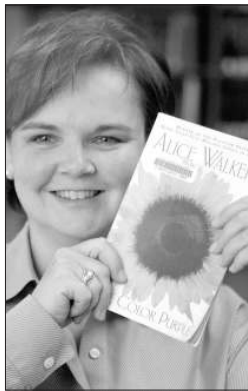
Jeffrey Eugenides, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Middlesex," says he re-reads Saul Bellow's "Herzog" obsessively, almost continuously, calling it his "literary caffeine."

"The language of that book, which is to my mind Bellow's greatest achievement, reminds me of what I'd like to be doing," Eugenides said.

Revisiting an old favorite can enrich your appreciation of it — or destroy it. Saricks says she was "horrified" when she went back to Hemingway. Mystery writer Lawrence Sanders loved reading James T. Farrell as a child, but as an adult found the prose "leaden." Minot had an even more disappointing reunion with Thomas Wolfe's verbose "You Can't Go Home Again."

"I read that in high school and it was incredible," she said.

"But when I looked at it again, I thought, 'Oh, no.' It didn't hold up. I read just one page and I quickly closed up the book."



Lisa Clemmer holds a copy of "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker on Wednesday at her office in Richmond, Va. She has read it four times. According to a study by the American Library Association, the book ranks among the most commonly re-read.

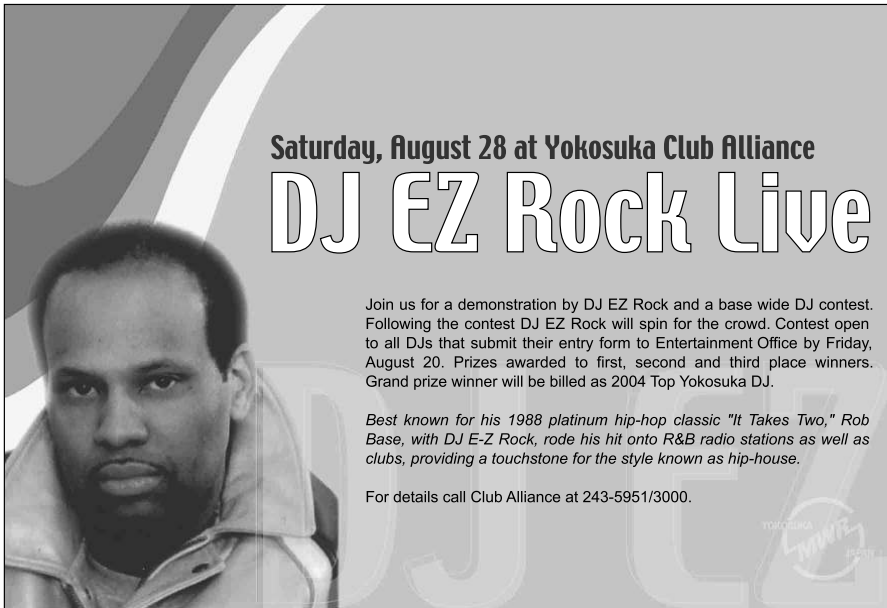
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Study: Carbs may increase risk of cancer

BY MARILYNN ARCHIONE
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — New research suggests that high-carbohydrate diets might raise the risk of breast cancer.

Women in Mexico who ate a lot of carbohydrates were more than twice as likely to get breast cancer than those who ate less starch and sugar, scientists found.

The study is hardly the last word on the subject, but it is one of the few to examine how the popular but controversial low-carb diet craze might affect the odds of getting cancer, as opposed to its effects on cholesterol and heart disease.







The new findings also don't mean that it is safe or healthful to eat lots of meat, cheese or fats, as many people who go on low-carb diets do, experts say.

"There are many concerns with eating diets high in animal fat," said Dr. Walter Willett, chief of nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health. "If people do want to cut back on carbohydrates, it's really important to do it in a way that emphasizes healthy fats, like salads with salad dressings."

Willett worked on the study with doctors at Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica in Cuernavaca, Mexico. It was funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ministry of Health of Mexico, and the American Institute for Cancer Research. Results were published

Diet and lifestyle factors in breast cancer

A third of cancer deaths in the United States are thought to be due to poor diet and lack of exercise, but few direct links have been made between specific foods or types of foods and specific cancers. Diet may play less of a role in hormone-related cancers such as breast and prostate cancer. Studies have found these factors may affect the odds of getting breast cancer:

					
Weight Being obese or overweight raises risk, especially after menopause	Alcohol More than a drink a day raises risk	Fats Results are inconsistent, but lower breast cancer rates are seen in countries where diets are lower in fat	Meat High consumption of red meat and animal fats may raise risk	Fiber In high levels may reduce risk, but evidence is unclear	Fruits and vegetables Reduce risk, at least five servings a day are recommended

SOURCES: American Cancer Society; National Cancer Institute

AP

Friday in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*.

Fats, fiber and specific foods have long been studied for their effects on various types of cancer, but few firm links have emerged. Being overweight is known to raise risk, but the new study took that into account and still found greater risk from high-carbohydrate consumption.

Scientists think carbs may increase cancer risk by rapidly raising sugar in the blood, which prompts a surge of insulin to be

secreted. This causes cells to divide and leads to higher levels of estrogen in the blood, both of which can encourage cancer.

A study earlier this year suggested that high-carb diets modestly raised the risk of colon cancer. Little research has been done on their effect on breast cancer, and results have been mixed.

One study last year found greater risk among young women who ate a lot of sweets, especially sodas and desserts.

For this study, researchers enrolled 475 women newly diag-

nosed with breast cancer and a comparison group of 1,391 healthy women in Mexico City who were matched for age, weight, childbirth trends and other factors that affect the odds of getting the disease.

Women filled out a lengthy food questionnaire developed by Willett and widely used in nutrition studies, and were divided into four categories based on how much of their total calories came from carbohydrates.

Those in the top category — who got 62 percent or more of their calories from carbs — were 2.22 times more likely to have breast cancer than those in the lowest category, whose carb intake was 52 percent or less of their diet.

"The findings do raise concern about the possible adverse effects of eating lots of carbohydrates," especially for people who have diabetes, insulin resistance or are overweight, Willett said.

"It adds to the information that diet's important" with respect to cancer risk, said John Milner, the National Cancer Institute's chief of nutrition.

How applicable the results are to American women is debatable. Carbohydrates make up half of the typical American diet — less than what most of the women in this study consumed.

Breast cancer rates in the United States are among the highest in the world. Nearly 132 cases are diagnosed for every 100,000 women.

In the study, women who ate a lot of insoluble fiber — found in whole grains, fruits and vegetables — had somewhat less risk of breast cancer. Fiber can modulate the absorption of carbohydrates.

"It leads me to believe that healthier carb sources, or at least diets containing fiber, would be less strongly associated with breast cancer," said Marjorie M. Coughlin, a senior epidemiologist and nutrition expert at the American Cancer Society.

Experts say more research is needed through a study that, instead of relying on women's memories about what they ate, asks them to keep food diaries and then follows them for years afterward to see which ones develop cancer.

Finding dietary links to breast cancer is important because diet is one of the few risk factors a woman can easily modify.

"This study alone isn't enough for people to make changes in their diet, but it's a cautionary sign," Willett said.

The Institute of Medicine recommends that carbohydrates constitute 45 percent to 65 percent of calories, and that no more than 20 percent should come from added sugars, said Schlicker, who served on the panel that drafted the advice. New dietary guidelines are due to be released next year.

Teen photographers focus on health issues

BY DAFFODIL J. ALTAN
Los Angeles Times

LaShield Williams only asked for one week. One week without Cheetos, soda, chili cheese-coated French fries or Fritos. One week, instead, of summer strawberries and cool salad greens.

And she got it.

Armed with photographs — of her high school's fat-and-sugar-laden menu fare, rows of soda machines, potato chip bags and Skittles — the Lakeview, Calif., teen walked into her adviser's office at St. Mary's Academy and asked that something be changed.

Her adviser agreed.

"So for a whole week we had no junk food," Williams said, smiling shyly on a recent morning. "Then they added granola bars and salad as a second entrée." Before that, choices included such things as tamale pie. "It was crazy," she said.

The catalyst for her request was a pocket-size digital camera handed to her when she was chosen for the Teen Photovoice project, a research study built on the premise of using community participation to effect change.

University of California at Los Angeles pediatrician Jonathan Necheles designed the study,

which was done through the UCLA/Rand Center for Adolescent Health Promotion, sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The traditional approach is that people in the community come up with the question, do the research and put a paper in a journal," Necheles said.

About 20 years ago, public health scientists became interested in how they could involve regular people in research projects with a goal of fostering change within communities.

That approach never gained momentum among researchers, health officials said, until it produced good results. But as communities confront a number of serious health issues, including obesity, teen depression and violence, interest is growing.

For his study, Necheles asked Williams and 12 other Los Angeles-area minority teens about the main health issues in their lives. Stress, they said. And food.

With Necheles' guidance, they set out to document how these issues were manifested in their daily lives. For six months the teenagers took thousands of photographs, created piles of prints and talked about common health themes.

"As pediatricians, we can see



Kelly Anderson checks out posters depicting health concerns, created by 13 Los Angeles teenage students, on display at the California Science Center.

someone in the clinic, but it's very hard for us to understand the social context that creates or perpetuates their health problems," Necheles said.

The project was designed not only to have the students identify health behaviors in their neighborhoods, but also to produce something tangible and visual, something that would promote change.

So the students created ads of

their own: three giant glossy posters that have been reprinted to distribute around their neighborhoods. Necheles hopes young people will relate more closely to the posters than they would if they were created by adults.

One depicts a balance-type scale. The heavier side is loaded with images of potato chips, cookies, doughnuts, and McDonald's arches, while the lighter side shows fruit, orange juice and water.

Above it is the question: "What side of the scale are you on?"

Beneath it: "More people are overweight than ever. ... Tip the scale to a healthier America."

Necheles said he hopes the experience will give the teens the confidence to continue to push for change in their communities.

"It's pretty cool," said Kathy Hernandez, 17. "You go through with it and you're like, 'Wow. It's not that hard to make a difference.'"

Nevada seniors find comfort in firearms

'Senior Militia' among growing population of older Americans more likely to own guns

By LYNN DOAN
Las Vegas Sun

LAS VEGAS — Some arrive at the older shooting range in wheelchairs. Others use walkers. A few are missing limbs lost in previous wars.

They call themselves the "Senior Militia," a group of about 20 gunslingsers mostly in their 60s who meet twice weekly to shoot the breeze — and their guns.

They are vigilant about their standing date for target practice because they think that off the range they are the targets.

"Old people tell me they feel like sheep, because they're so helpless," said John McCormack, 80, unofficial president of the group.

McCormack and other members of the group are part of a growing population of Americans older than 65 who are the most likely of all age groups to own guns.

Until the 1990s, men ages 40 to 49 were the demographic group most likely to own guns, said Tim

Smith of the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago. Now gun ownership is most prevalent among senior citizens, Smith said.

In 1982, 30 percent of Americans older than 65 reported they owned guns, compared with 38 percent of Americans ages 40 to 49, according to a survey by the National Opinion Research Center.

That reversed by 2002, with 37 percent of Americans older than 65 owning guns and 24 percent of Americans ages 40 to 49 reporting ownership.

Smith said the shift was partly because Americans who reported having guns two decades ago moved into the older age group and because younger generations have lost interest in hunting.

Eighty percent of gun owners own rifles and shotguns, the most popular hunting guns, and 60 percent own handguns, Smith said.

Almost half of gun owners possess both.

"The oldest adults were, at least at one time, the most avid of hunters," he said.

Now they fear they're the hunted, according to The Gun Store manager Dave Vining, who heads the store's concealed weapons instruction program.

"They're scared," Vining said. "They're afraid they won't be able to protect themselves against home invasions, muggings, robberies, carjackings."

It's not that older people are more likely to be crime victims.

Since January, 9 percent of robberies in Las Vegas were committed against citizens older than 60, according to police.

Three percent of assault and battery victims were older than 60.

People 65 and older make up 10 percent of the population of Clark County, according to the state demographer's office.

Las Vegas police Sgt. Tom Johnson, who handles gun registration and concealed firearms permits, said he thinks senior citizens buy guns to feel safer in crime-ridden areas.

Johnson said gun shops tend to exaggerate the number of senior

citizens purchasing guns, but he said the department does not keep track of gun ownership according to age, sex or religion.

All the members of the Senior Militia have gone through the qualification and registration process that lets them carry their weapons concealed in public.

Vince Pillig, 58, one of the younger members of the group, said he has exposed his gun twice to teens who he thought were trying to rob him.

Once, Pillig said, he was home alone when he spotted some teenagers climbing over the wall of his back yard. Pillig went to his back screen door, exposed his gun and told them to leave.

Another time, Pillig said, he flashed the butt of his gun at teenagers at his door who claimed to be selling magazine subscriptions. They could not provide identification, Pillig said, and they fled in a car with no license plate.

Local gun store owners said they have seen a significant age increase in their clientele in the past

few years. Mike O'Donoghue, owner of Discount Firearms, said 40 percent of his customers are senior citizens.

"Whether they're conservatives or liberals, they're waking up to the reality that they're not as young as they used to be," he said. "They realize that the police can't be there all the time, everywhere."

Ron Gray, owner of Accuracy Gun Shop, said older generations are realizing they have to take safety in their own hands.

Gun ownership among senior citizens isn't risk free, said Matt Bennett, a spokesman for Americans for Gun Safety. The national organization says law-abiding adults have the right to own guns, but fears that some older adults are incapable of handling a gun responsibly.

Bennett said gun-related suicides among senior citizens also are a major concern. In 2002, the most recent year available, the National Center for Health Statistics reported that 16,882 Americans committed suicide with a gun, 36 percent of whom were older than age 55.

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Concierges hired to assist athletes' needs

BY THOMAS HEATH

The Washington Post

Detroit Lions running back Kevin Jones wanted a dog — but not just any dog. He wanted an English bulldog, and when a star athlete such as Kevin Jones wants a dog, he doesn't go to a shelter, a kennel or a breeder. He picks up the phone and, within a few days, is walking the puppy of his dreams.

Tarrer Management put the leash in Jones' hand. The company caters to every personal and financial whim in the lives of the two dozen professional athletes it serves —

and that means tracking down the perfect English bulldog.

When Jones called, client services specialist Chynia

Brown jumped on the Internet and found a champion bulldog breeder in

Britain, ordering an 8-week-old,

\$2,500 female that was flown to Dulles International Airport outside Washington. Brown guided the puppy through customs and took it home with her. Three days later, the pup was plucked in a rented Jeep Cherokee and driven overnight by another Tarrer specialist to Dearborn, Mich., where "Cheeks," as the bulldog was named, was delivered to Jones around 7 a.m.

"I called them up and said I

needed to get a dog, and the next thing you know, they got this dog," Jones said. "They got it to me within two or three days ... all the shots done."

Jones is one of hundreds of professional athletes whose salaries have soared over the last decade, creating a class of young millionaires inclined to hire staff to handle the clutter and inconvenience of everyday life. A small army of personal assistants and lifestyle management firms has grown up around professional athletes, offering round-the-clock hand-holding that ranges from stocking refrigerators to paying the dry cleaner to making sure grandmothers

get to the airport on time. The business is expected to double to \$1.3 billion in annual revenue in the next five years.

"We can do everything from chartering private yachts and jets to simple things like finding you a housekeeper to finding the best tea in town for \$10," said Dionne Muhammad, founder and president of

Celebrity Personal Assistants Inc., which was retained by the NFL Players Association this year to be available to serve its 1,896 active players and more than 5,000 retirees. CPAI has a concierge division in addition to other lifestyle management services and handles athletes from most of the major sports as well as some entertainers.

Personal assistants have been serving A-list celebrities and the



PRESTON KERES, WASHINGTON POST/LATW

NBA star Carmelo Anthony is among a growing number of athletes who have turned to Terence Tarrer, among others, to manage their lives. The company caters to every personal and financial whim in the lives of the two dozen professional athletes it serves.

wealthy over the last century, and many of the top sports agencies have client service providers who help athletes navigate the demands of daily life. Sports agency giant SPX has designated individuals who help set up households for clients, do their shopping, negotiate leases, buy dresses, blouses, furniture. You name it.

"It's not like athletes expect this service, but it's something they like," said Steven B. Trax, vice president of SPX's financial services arm, which helps athletes manage their money. "They just don't want to be bothered with some of the mundane household issues that come up."

Octagon Financial Services, which serves hundreds of athletes, helps clients purchase homes, cars and other big-ticket items, and finds trainers, chefs and even sports psychologists and translators.

But Octagon shies from household tasks, leaving that job to players or other companies, such as CPAI.

"It's a personal service business, so it's hard to say no when a client gets traded from one city to another and needs help to rebuild their lifestyle from scratch," said Frank Zecca, vice president at Octagon. "We do send people out in planes to get it taken care of."

Sheree Buchanan, wife of former Atlanta Falcons cornerback Ray Buchanan, who signed with the Oakland Raiders this summer, was in tears a few weeks ago when she called CPAI to ask for help finding a home in California.

"They had a realtor call me 15 minutes later," Sheree said. But the help didn't stop there. CPAI found Prince concert tickets for September, is compiling a list of Bay Area private schools for their four children and is working on a pediatrician, orthodontist, dentist and family doctor.

"I have four kids," she said. "You are constantly moving and you have people pulling at you.

My husband is at training camp and it's wonderful to have someone there to help you."

Muhammad, 34, is a former software executive who founded CPAI four years ago with the idea of staffing celebrities with personal assistants who were sure and were college educated. Previously, many celebrities relied on members of their informal entourages, usually made up of childhood friends and acquaintances, to handle minor tasks.

Muhammad won't say how much the firm charges, but industry fees range from \$500 to \$2,500 a month. Tarrer charges about \$3,000, said Terence Tarrer, the firm's owner. CPAI mans a round-the-clock Atlanta telephone center for members and keeps a database with clients' preferences, ranging from which side of an airplane they prefer to sit on to whether they drink only soy milk. Tarrer, who has a finance degree from New York University and a master's in sports management from Virginia Commonwealth, said his team can work all night as well.

Theo Ratliff of the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers phoned CPAI last month when he needed six airplane tickets for a quick vacation to Jamaica. When Ratliff wanted to promote an energy drink he owns, CPAI set up 50 radio interviews. And every Mother's Day, CPAI sees to it that Ratliff's mother, Camillia, who lives in Alabama, gets a bouquet of her favorite flowers.

"It's just personal stuff that you want to try to get done without the headache to deal with," Ratliff said.



Being a professional athlete is a 'round-the-clock job. Between training camps, games, practices and interviews, there isn't a lot of time left to deal with everyday tasks. Many athletes are hiring assistants to keep their lives in order.

RELIGION

Scientist challenges teachings of Mormons

BY PATTY HENETZ
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Fundamental teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints about some events in the Book of Mormon are changing — not through revelation, but through church-sanctioned scholars' reinterpretations, an Australian geneticist and former LDS bishop writes in a new book.

In "Losing a Lost Tribe: Native Americans, DNA and the Mormon Church," author Simon Southerton applies his own and others' DNA research to Mormon beliefs, while also examining the writings of Brigham Young University scholars at the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, or FARMs.

Southerton's work examines church teachings that American Indians and Polynesians have historic bonds with ancient Israelites. While the question of whether such a connection exists may seem like an arcane theological point to outsiders, to some Mormons, a reinterpretation may be startling and disturbing.

A senior researcher with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Canberra, Australia, Southerton also takes aim at FARMs' assertions that the Book of Mormon's events could only have occurred in parts of Mexico and Guatemala.

That interpretation goes against traditional church teachings that Book of Mormon events took place across the Western Hemisphere and that Native Americans are the descendants of the Hebrews who settled the Americas in 600 B.C., he notes. "You've got Mormon apologists in their own publications rejecting what prophets have been saying for decades. This became very troubling for ordinary members of the church," Southerton said.

For a century or so, scientists have theorized that Asians migrated to the Americas across a land bridge at least 14,000 years ago. Over the past 20 years, researchers examining American Indian and Polynesian DNA have found no evidence of Israelite ancestry.

But Mormons have been taught to believe that the Book of Mormon — the faith's keystone text — is a literal record of the faith's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas called Lamanites. They are said to have descended from the Israelite patriarch Lehi, who sailed to the New World around 600 B.C.

The church teaches that Joseph Smith translated this record in the 1820s from gold plates he unearthed on a hillside near Palmyra, N.Y. The Book of Mormon was first published in 1830.

Southerton said that, given the state of DNA research and increasing lay awareness of it, church leaders ought just to own up to the problems that continued literal teachings about the Book of Mormon present.

"I don't have any problem with anyone believing what's in the Book of Mormon," Southerton said, "just don't make it look like science is backing it all up."



Architectural spirituality

Group looks at connection between design, devotion

By KEN KUSMER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ind. — Why is it that the arches and open spaces of a cathedral inspire faith, yet so does the comfort and familiarity of a small country chapel? The connection between design and devotion is under study by a group of clerics, neuroscientists and architects who are trying to understand how the mind reacts to the sensations of entering a house of worship. The result, they hope, will be better designs that enhance the meaning of the sacred and earthly.

"This whole quest is more than learning that things do happen — but why do they happen?" said Norman Koonce, chief executive of the American Institute of Architects and father of the partnership.

Koonce became interested in neuroscience under a decade ago after he met Jonas Silk, who developed the polio vaccine. The doctor told Koonce that while stymied on a breakthrough, he made a retreat to Assisi, Italy. The great buildings of the monastery town inspired Salk to think more deeply and design the research that produced the breakthrough.

Learning about such experiences was the focus recently as about 30 representatives from religion, science and architecture gathered for two days in Columbus. The meeting was the latest in a series of

"exploratory workshops" into architecture and neuroscience organized by the AIA.

At the meeting, attendees discussed symbolism, sight lines, acoustics and what defines a "sacred" space. They left planning experiments that might advance their dialogue, which organizers hope to resume next year. The Rev. Robert Schuller, who spoke to the group, has invited it to meet in 2005 at his Philip Johnson-designed Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.

The Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture, an AIA affiliate based in San Diego, also is building on the work of psychiatrist Dr. Andrew Newberg of the University of Pennsylvania. His experiments with Franciscan nuns and Buddhist monks deep in meditation showed him that they could attain states in which they felt united with a greater spirit or force.

"In deeply religious states, they find a sense of oneness with the world," said the Rev. Patrick Russell of Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania, a neuroscientist turned Lutheran minister.

The roots of that experience might lie in

When the setting is a synagogue or a cathedral, the way it looks or sounds can enhance or diminish the worship experience.



AP photos

Above: Architects and faith leaders attending an April conference on design and religion in Columbus, Ind., walk into the sanctuary at North Christian Church, designed by Finnish architect Eero Saarinen. Top left: Conference attendees Eve Edelstein of San Diego and Steve Flanagan of Atlanta take in the church's interior.

how the brain works.

Many neuroscientists believe parts of the brain are wired by billions of nerve cells that work within fractions of a second to form sensations, memories and feelings. The brain does this with an estimated 60,000 miles of neural wiring — a length greater than the total distance of the U.S. interstate highway system. It's as complicated as carrying on 10,000 conversations at once, Russell said.

When the setting is a synagogue or a cathedral, the way it looks or sounds can enhance or diminish the worship experience.

Columbus architect Nolan Bingham told the meeting how tears had welled in the eyes of a Jewish woman as she walked into a house of prayer outside her own tradition, the city's landmark North Christian Church, built by Eero Saarinen, better known for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, it conveys "sacred spaces" as few other places can, with a roof that appears to float on air and a spire that soars 192 feet.

When Bingham asked why she was crying, the woman could not explain it, he said.

"That's what I want to know," Bingham said. "There is not an easy answer for that. How do you find that thing?"

Critics concerned Saudi academy teaches hatred

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A Virginia school that caters to children of Saudi diplomats is teaching first-graders that Judaism and Christianity are false religions, according to a Muslim group concerned that such teachings breed hatred.

The Free Muslim Coalition Against Terrorism is calling on the Islamic Saudi Academy to remove the textbook used to teach first-graders. The teachers' edition of the textbook outlines several points of emphasis, including the statement, "All religions other than Islam are false religions."

The coalition's director, Kamal Nawash, a Muslim, said it would be acceptable to teach that Islam is the only correct religion. But to explicitly tell first-graders that Jews and Christians practice a false religion could breed extremism, he said.

The school "must be sure to instruct students to have the utmost respect for other religions," Nawash said.

Abraham Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American Islamic Relations, said he did not believe it is a good idea to explicitly criticize other religions to young children.

"Followers of most major faiths believe

they have the correct religious teachings, but an affirmative belief in the truth of one's own faith should not lead to the disparagement of all others," Hooper said.

The school teaches more than 1,000 students at campuses in Alexandria and Fairfax, both near Washington.

The school's teachings have come under scrutiny since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Federal court documents in a case against an academy graduate indicate that student discussions after the attacks took an anti-American bent, and some students considered the attacks "payback" for what they saw as American mistreatment of the Muslim world.

New slogan wanted

KS TOPEKA — The city of Topeka is looking for a new slogan, but some residents just couldn't resist poking fun at their city's image.

Officials planned to begin a contest in October, with the winning motto to be announced around Dec. 5, Topeka's 150th anniversary.

But The Topeka Capital-Journal decided to get a head start.

Some suggestions aren't likely to win official approval: "Topeka — you won't get a lot of unwanted relatives visiting you," and "Topeka — not as bad as you think."

Mayor James McClintock said Topeka has positive aspects like the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and the Statehouse that it can promote and shouldn't get sidetracked by mayors.

The slogan will be used to promote the city so it must portray it favorably — unlike many of the suggestions that the Topeka Convention and Visitors Bureau has received already.

Monkey bites young boy

NY NEW YORK — A monkey trained to help a disabled man with chores bit a 2-year-old boy in a supermarket, authorities said.

The boy, Thomas Romano, was shopping with his grandparents at the Key Food store in Brooklyn on Monday when the monkey bit him on the arm. He was treated at a hospital and released.

The monkey's owner, Steven Seidler, 45, said the animal attacked after Romano pulled its fur. Seidler is confined to a wheelchair and uses the monkey to help him open doors and pick things up.

But Romano's grandmother, Helene Romano, said the bite was unprovoked.

It is illegal to keep monkeys as pets in New York City, but permits are given for those trained to help the disabled.

Monitoring for meth

IA CHARLES CITY — The Floyd County sheriff's office has a new tool for monitoring anhydrous ammonia tanks to prevent theft by methamphetamine producers. It's a handheld thermal imaging device that senses heat and generates images in all lighting conditions, including darkness. The device was free through a technology transfer program sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

GPA changes in store

AZ TUCSON — The University of Arizona is considering changing the way grade point averages are calculated to make room for pluses and minuses. Arizona State University will make the change this fall, leaving UA as the only school in the Pac-10 that doesn't use a plus and minus system. A school official said failing to switch may put the school's disadvantage.

Inmates work overtime

WA OLYMPIA — Washington inmates put in 3.5 million hours in 2003 working in jails, for a government agency, or the com-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

munity. At the state minimum wage, that was worth nearly \$25 million, the Washington State Jail Industries Board said. Inmates cook, clean and do laundry in jail. Officials say inmates aren't taking private jobs. They typically aren't paid.

Outstanding warrants

LA SHREVEPORT — Caddo Parish deputies are seeking out about 9,800 offenders with outstanding warrants after telling people to come in and take care of them. Sheriff Steve Prator said most of the active warrants are for misdemeanors such as first offense driving while intoxicated, not wearing a seat belt, fishing without a license or failing to show up in court.

Man can't own pets

NY WAVERLY — A man who broke into an animal shelter to abandon his German Shepherd has been ordered not to own a pet for the next decade. A Tioga County judge sentenced Michael Bostwick, 25, to 10 years of not owning or having any contact with animals.

In addition to the no-pet edict, Bostwick will also have to make restitution to Stray Haven Humane Society.

Insurance struggle

ND BISMARCK — North Dakota's only abortion clinic has malpractice insurance from a company that has been disciplined in several states, officials



Ball practice

Deion Harper, 3, gets some batting assistance from his brother Jahmar Harper, 10, Wednesday in Wichita, Kan.

said.

Jim Poolman, the state's insurance commissioner, wants to draft an order for Professional Liability Insurance Co. Ltd. to quit doing business in the state.

Poolman said Jane Bovard, director of the Red River Women's Clinic of Fargo, has refused to provide him the clinic's insurance records and he intends to subpoena them.

Bovard told the agency that she will not turn over the records, on advice of her attorney. Bovard, president of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, said the insurer has defended other abortion clinics against malpractice cases.

Last month, the Washington state insurance commissioner ordered PLIC, as the company is known, to quit doing business there.

Boy punished for threats

VA ROANOKE — A teenager who allegedly used a library computer to threaten President Bush was ordered to write a research paper on homeland security, and he'll have to do it without the Internet.

The teenager e-mailed threats to kill the president and bomb the White House from a library computer, authorities said. In May, he pleaded guilty to felony charges of extortion, threatening to kill the president and threatening to bomb the White House.

Bounds decided Tuesday to delay final disposition until a Nov. 16 hearing.

There was no evidence the youth posed a genuine threat, a prosecutor said. "It was just a 13-year-old kid acting out," Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Leach said.

From fires to concerts

PA BETHLEHEM — Anthony Vanic, a firefighter for more than eight years, is quitting to pursue a country music career in Nashville, Tenn.

Vanic resigned as a city firefighter on June 28 and will move to Nashville to perform under the stage name Anthony Michael James.

After 10 years of playing music, Vanic released his first record, "Old Friends," in July. He is already lining up concerts, including an appearance Aug. 14 at Bethlehem's Musikfest.

Fire Commissioner Kevin Moyzan said the department will regret losing a firefighter, "but when somebody has an opportunity for a career that some people only dream of, that's great."

Vanic said he is moving his family in the next couple of weeks.

Suspicious trash

NM SUNLAND PARK — A few truckloads of trash brought to the Camino Real Landfill in Sunland Park have raised the suspicion of inspectors with the state Environment Department.

The trash will be tested for possible asbestos, heavy metals and bits of medical waste, said department spokesman John Goldstein. Gov. Bill Richardson ordered the inspections a day earlier, saying the state had received reports that hazardous waste had been illegally dumped at the landfill.



Wet walk

From left, Cierra Walton, Ebony Starks and Quintana Hughes seek shelter from the rain as they walk down a Yankee Road sidewalk Wednesday in Middletown, Ohio.



Landing zone

A pollen-covered bee comes in for landing to collect more pollen from a sunflower Tuesday in a garden east of Myrtle Creek, Ore.



Tanker stops traffic A tanker truck carrying jet fuel lies overturned on Highway 55 north of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, on Wednesday after spilling a portion of its load. Traffic along the busy highway was stopped in both directions until the spill could be removed.



Fenced in Huntington Police Department Patrolman Dave Hunnicutt works with a crowbar to free a raccoon from a fence Wednesday morning at the David Ruppert residence in Huntington, Ind. Ruppert was eating breakfast when he noticed the animal trapped in his back yard. He tried to free it by using a broom, but the raccoon's right hind leg was firmly wedged between fence boards. After Hunnicutt succeeded in prying the animal loose, it scampered underneath Ruppert's shed. Ruppert said he plans to get a live trap from the shelter and catch the raccoon, then release it at the reservoir.



Cool idea Decatur, Ala., Austin High School drummer Chip Owens provided his own shade in the form of a sombrero Tuesday at a week long band camp.



Blue skies at the fair From left, Joyce Morrison, Jackie Morrison, Erika Tanney and Eric Jones use umbrellas to fend off the sun as they watch a horse show Tuesday at the Johnson County Fair in Gardner, Kan.

Man hiccups to hospital

PA PITTSBURGH — It's uncommon, but it does happen. Pennsylvania state Rep. Larry Roberts has been hospitalized with hiccups since July 19.

"Almost everyone gets hiccups," said Dr. Marc Itskowitz, a doctor of internal medicine and assistant professor of medicine at Pittsburgh's Allegheny General Hospital.

Usually they last no more than a few hours, but two categories are much more tenacious.

"Rarely they can be 'persistent,' which is more than 48 hours, or 'intractable,' which is two months or more," Itskowitz said.

Roberts has undergone tests to determine the cause, of which there are more than 100 known, because there can be no cure without that information.

Roberts himself was unavailable for comment, but Perno said he was very hoarse.

USO opens at airport

NC RALEIGH — The USO of North Carolina will open a satellite office at Raleigh-Durham International Airport on Thursday, providing snacks and a waiting room for troops headed to and from North Carolina military bases and posts. The airport donated the 1,550-square-foot area within Terminal A. It's outfitted with various amenities including a kitchenette, a small dining area and a coffee station.

Eying porch couches

MI ANN ARBOR — The city council has proposed banning upholstered couches on front porches and lawns at the University of Michigan campus. The couches, a staple at outdoor parties and afternoon lounging, are a fire hazard, fire officials say. The ban has upset some on campus who say city leaders want to get rid of the couches for no good reason.

Polls not handicap ready

NH CONCORD — The Attorney General's office wants every community to make all polling places fully accessible to the handicapped before next month's state primary, even though none currently are. Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Manning says most of the problems are minor, such as ramps that are too steep, too long or don't have handrails.

Lawyer taken hostage

FL JACKSONVILLE — A man who authorities said was unhappy with the outcome of a court case took an attorney hostage and threatened to set off a bomb in a high rise unless a judge resigned. His demands were met — or so it was made to seem.

John M. Knight surrendered shortly after the judge pretended to resign on live television Wednesday, said John Bowen, chief of homeland security for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said the judge had handled a case involving Knight.

The attorney, Christopher Ha-

zelp, was freed unharmed.

Knight, 45, told police he knew the judge's resignation would not be accepted, but felt it was the best way to get his message out that he was unhappy with her handling of his case.

Sen. didn't pay tickets

MA BOSTON — State Sen. Diane Wilkerson, who was once convicted of failing to pay her taxes, had her car towed after running up about \$1,300 in unpaid parking tickets.

A spokesman for Wilkerson, a Boston Democrat, said she just found out about the tickets and retrieved the car after paying the bill.

"She takes full responsibility for this," spokesman Barry Lawton said.

Lawton said the car was booted in front of Wilkerson's campaign office on Tremont Street.

Wilkerson, an attorney who has served in the state Senate since 1993, has a history of personal financial problems.

Bird flies into a mess

CA YUBA CITY — Not only did this chicken not make it across the road, but it wound up in a motorist's windshield wipers.

Yuba City Police Lt. Bill Ollar said a man reported that he was driving along a Highway 99 frontage road when a chicken flew by and became entangled in the wipers.

The man said he didn't want to try to free the bird himself so he drove to the police station in this farming community, about 35 miles north of Sacramento. An officer suggested that he turn on his wipers to see if that would free the chicken, but it only set off a "wing-flapping, screeching frenzy," police said.

Finally, an officer donned rubber gloves and freed the bird, which was unharmed but got away.

Drive-thru delivery

SD MOUNT VERNON — Call it a drive-thru delivery.

The birth of Elaine and Rodney Schabot's new baby gives the term full-service bank a whole new meaning.

First Bank's Mount Vernon branch became a maternity ward when the couple couldn't make it to the hospital.

The couple was headed for a hospital about 25 miles from home, after Elaine Schabot went into labor. But as they traveled east along Interstate 90, a blinding rainstorm cut visibility to near zero and Schabot told her husband she needed to stop.

They stopped at the bank, where they are regular customers.

Fifteen minutes later, their 6-pound, 15-ounce daughter arrived.

Assistant bank manager Diana Descombas said the couple ran inside, saying they were about to have a baby. She called 911 and Paul Morris, a firefighter and paramedic who lives in town. Even though he was off-duty, Morris rushed to the bank to assist with the delivery.

Stories and photos from wire reports

MILITARY UPDATE

Army finds no lack of recruits for infantry

Whether for patriotism, adventure or economic opportunity, recruits are streaming into Fort Benning, Ga., this summer for infantry training and a frontline role in the war on terrorism.

Even as news outlets emphasize the chaos and casualties of Iraq, and a divided U.S. citizenry debates the wisdom of the war there, the Infantry Training Brigade at Benning is flush with volunteers, many of whom can expect to face combat in the coming months or years.

The swell of volunteers is more evidence, officials contend, of the resiliency and vitality of the all-volunteer U.S. military.

Lt. Col. Allen Smith, deputy commander of the Infantry Training Brigade, said in a phone interview that the courage of these young men, arriving in groups of 220 almost every Friday, will compare well, in time, to the celebrated, draft-induced "Greatest Generation" of World War II.

Despite the dangers and hardships of Iraq and Afghanistan, Smith said, "We still see a very dedicated young man (enlisting) to serve his country. Tom Brokaw wrote the book about The Greatest Generation. We say, well, this generation has a lot [too]. It's just that history hasn't identified yet what this generation is going to do."

Fort Benning, the hub of Army infantry training, is bustling as the Army tries to grow by at least 10,000 troops a year through 2006 and to rebalance forces to meet war-time commitments and ease the burden of too frequent deployments on active and reserve component units.

"The Army is growing 'as fast as we can,'" said Gen. Peter Schoomaker, its chief of staff at a July 26 press conference. He described efforts to recruit more youth, to retain more experienced soldiers and to attract separating Navy and Air Force members under a "Blue to Green" ini-

Tom Philpott



tiative.

The Infantry Training Brigade at Benning has grown from 24 companies to 30 since spring, and will reach 37 companies by December. The increase in training capacity will be enough to produce 10,500 more infantrymen a year, atop the current annual average of 14,000.

Apart from the obvious strain on recruiters who must scramble to sign enough volunteers, the heavier stream of infantry recruits poses infrastructure and supply line challenges at Benning, Smith said.

Modular barracks are spouting. Firing ranges are so taxed that coordination of schedules must be precise. Dental and medical staffs need to expand. Extra buses have been added to transport recruits between training sites. Extra bunks, wall lockers and personal gear, including helmets and packs, are on order. So far the brigade has avoided shortages that could slow training but it's a great worry of the end of the fiscal year approaches.

"We have to see an increase in equipment. We have to see an increase in cadre," said Smith.

To run seven of the new training companies, the Army mobilized reservists from 84th Division (Institutional Training) headquartered in Milwaukee. The division pulls experienced trainers from a six-state area.

"It just takes a large effort to support this, and everybody thus far has been able to answer the mail on what we needed," Smith said.

Brigade statistics show the typical infantry recruit is 20 years old. All are men because women are banned from the infantryman specialty. Seventy-nine percent of infantry recruits are white, 8 percent black and 13 percent are others including Hispanic. Seven percent have some college education, 65 percent are high school graduates,

21 percent did not graduate but passed a General Educational Development (GED) exam. Seven percent of infantry recruits are listed only as "non-high school graduates." Ten percent are married.

After 14 weeks and a graduation, most infantry soldiers go on to other training like airborne school, Ranger indoctrination, Special Forces training or specific instruction on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle or Dragon anti-tank missile.

Some soldiers, however, go directly to a divisional unit and if that unit is headed to Iraq or Afghanistan, so are they.

Some Army officials, like many outside observers, expected a dip in recruiting for the combat arms after U.S. forces invaded and occupied Iraq. That hasn't occurred, Smith said, and he isn't sure why. [Almost 1,000 U.S. servicemen have died and more than 4,600 have suffered wounds.]

Despite the Army's push to train infantrymen, Smith said, training standards have not changed. No one is cutting corners. At graduation, even with tours in Iraq or Afghanistan looming, "families are so appreciative" of changes in their sons, seeing them transformed to soldiers, Smith said.

"I just tell them, 'Hey, it's the drill sergeant that works that magic.'"

Graduate soldiers and families, Smith said, are no more likely today to dwell on the dangers ahead than they were before the war in Iraq. "There is apprehension but it is not widespread. There is inquisitiveness but not massive [worry] over what they face."

That they are there at all, as volunteers, is a small miracle to many Americans.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail militaryupdate@aol.com or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

Japanese flag returned to fallen soldier's family

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — It had been 60 years since Manishi Sasaki last touched the piece of silk cloth, a white banner emblazoned with a large, red circle symbolizing Japan as the land of the rising sun.

Under the words "Long Live the Warrior," inscribed in kanji, Sasaki and dozens more had signed the small flag and presented it to his brother, Ippei, a 21-year-old Japanese soldier headed off to fight in World War II.

Ippei lost his life in the Battle of Okinawa on June 17, 1945. Friday, the flag he carried was returned to his family in an emotional ceremony outside the 374th Air Lift Wing headquarters building.

"I cannot find words to describe how I feel," Manishi Sasaki said through a translator.

"I have only two pictures of my older brother. Because I have the flag again, I think I can console his spirit now."

Flags were considered traditional farewell gifts for Japanese

men going into war. Ippei Sasaki received his in a village called Yaho, about 10 miles from where Yokota sits today.

After the war, a U.S. soldier gave the flag to Betty Wilson Tarp, a California woman. Her son, Jim, always wondered about its origin and recently managed to track it down through a friend, retired Air Force Col. Brian Shirokawa, who had been stationed at Yokota.

In mid-June, Shirokawa sent a digital scan of the flag to Takahiro Ichikawa, an old friend who worked for the 374th Security Force Squadron. Ichikawa was able to identify the soldier and his village, now part of Kunitachi City, so he contacted officials there.

Two days later, they located the family and informed Manishi Sasaki the flag had been found.

"It didn't take too long to find the family, but it's like a miracle," Ichikawa said. "I'm so happy, because the flag is returning to where it belongs."

Col. Mark Schissler, 374th Air Lift Wing commander, conducted Friday's ceremony and offered

the flag back to Sasaki.

"Ippei Sasaki embodied the Samurai spirit as a young warrior and he died in the most honorable way: serving his country and protecting his very homeland," Schissler told the crowd. "By this ceremony, we honor his memory and service."

"A mere 60 years ago, our two countries were the fiercest of enemies but today are crucial partners and the strongest allies the world can know. Today's ceremony reflects that fact: how two nations have overcome great fear and hatred to embrace freedom and humanity together. As a result of that progress, we've come to enjoy shared peace and certain prosperity that is unmatched anywhere else in our world."

The 60th anniversary of a family member's death holds special meaning for Buddhists, said Mieko Morita, a Yokota spokeswoman. After that landmark, many believe a spirit can truly be laid to rest.

The timing of Friday's ceremony was significant for Sasaki, the youngest of nine siblings. He recalled his older brother as a "very



VAL GENPIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Col. Mark Schissler, left, commander of the 374th Air Lift Wing at Yokota Air Base, returns a Japanese flag to Manishi Sasaki during a ceremony in front of the headquarters building.

big, muscular man" who had a warm, kind disposition.

"After getting this flag, I want to console his spirit in the Japanese way," he said. "I'm so thankful to the base for having this ceremony. I felt very warm hospitality from everyone here."

Schissler said he relished the opportunity to host such a moving event.

"I'm very grateful we had the chance to bring a Japanese family here and honor their brother who died," he said afterward. "It's interesting to note he died fighting against U.S. forces, but we're all friends today."

"That's pretty amazing progress in 60 years."

E-mail Vince Little at: little@pstirps.osd.mil

Phone cards now last longer

Sailors with an AT&T Global Prepaid Card now can expect their phone calls to last longer without paying a cent more, according to the Navy Exchange Service Command. NEXCOM, announced that it has lowered the price per minute on phone cards from countries visited most frequently by Navy ships. The price reduction is available only for the AT&T Global Prepaid Card, sold in vending machines ashore and aboard ships.

The new rates are: 18 cents per minute from Australia to the United States (down 86 percent) and 60 cents per minute (down 60 percent) from the Philippines. All calls from Bahrain, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates now are 30 cents per minute and 20 cents per minute from Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Greece, Okinawa, Iceland, Italy, Spain and Canada. All the rates decreased, a NEXCOM official said Wednesday; the former Japan-U.S. calling rate was 26 cents per minute.

If calling from within the United States, the new price is down from 15 cents to 10 cents per minute.

Marines hold Iwakuni 'field mess'

IWAKUNI MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, Japan — Close to 180 Marines from Marine All Weather Fighter At-

tack Squadron 225 met last week at Club Iwakuni's Ball-room for their first field mess since their arrival here.

The events included awards, dinner and a brief presentation on the unit's history, according to a base report. "The field mess... allows us to pay homage to those who have gone before us, and pass traditions on to newer Marines," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael Webber, VMFA (AW)-225 quality assurance chief.

One Iwakuni resident in an open cockpit fleeing from commanding officer Lt. Col. William Van Atten, who fired a series of blanks from his pistol and shouted, "Do not return until you can present meat that is fit for my men!"

U.S. Army Pacific Commander honored

Lt. Gen. James L. Campbell, commander, U.S. Army Pacific, was honored for his service in a ceremony on Thursday, according to an Army release.

Taking command of USARPAC in November 2002, Campbell oversaw training and movement of soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom at Hawaii, Alaska and Japan. He was noted for strengthening relations with Army commands in the Asian region and supported several multilateral training exercises with other nations in this theater.

Campbell will next serve in Washington, D.C., as director of Army Staff at Department of Army headquarters.

Major Gen. John M. Brown III will take command of USARPAC later this month. He is currently serving as commanding general, U.S. Army Alaska.

Yokota restaurants closing

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Suzuki's, Sho-Ichi Ban and the Bean Machine will be closed Aug. 16 because of scheduled health inspections, according to a 374th Service Division news release. The restaurants will return to normal business hours on Aug. 17.

Auditions set for children's theater

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Auditions for the Missoula Children's Theatre Workshop are set for 10 a.m. until noon on Monday at Tayo Recreation Center, 374th Service Division officials announced. They're open to Yokota students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The workshop runs Monday to Saturday, when the troupe will stage two performances of "Red Riding Hood." Show times are 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Tayo Recreation Center. The group must fill all areas of the production, from actors to stage crew members. Call DSN 225-6955 or DSN 225-6980 for more information.

From staff reports

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Marriage issue not top priority

The writer of the Aug. 4 letter "No limits is a no-go," Master Sgt. Thomas A. Gillard, needs to get real. He asks why he shouldn't equate two adults of the same sex with the legal marriage and the agenda of the North American Man-Boy Love Association as being roughly the same. Or as being roughly equal to child molestation. That's bull. The key here is "consenting adults." An adult can legally consent. An underage child is not "consenting" regardless of what he may say verbally. They are minors. Not the same thing. And really sir, why bring dogs, fish and cows into the argument? Few people go so far as to marry their animals.

Furthermore, we do not need the U.S. government to amend the Constitution to define marriage. While Merriam-Webster defines the word marriage as "the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family," it also defines it as "an act of marrying or the rite by which married status is affected" and also as "an intimate or close union."

I would prefer my government keep us safe from real enemies, keep the economy on an even keel, and weigh in on matters of real importance concerning the running of this nation. Trying to regulate who's kissing who can probably be handled (assuming it needs to be handled at all) by the lower level than the president, Congress or the Supreme Court. I am loath to support an amendment to the constitution for no greater good for the preferred social policy onto all others.

Leave it up to the local community to determine acceptable standards. And if the local community doesn't really care, then you should just avert your eyes and move on. It's not like these folks are asking to move in with you.

While I am not particularly keen on the idea of same-sex marriage, I am not vehemently opposed, either. On the whole I'd say I'm pretty much unconcerned with the dating preferences of adults outside of my immediate family. Hopefully they're not concerning themselves with my choice of mates and plotting to have

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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my spouse written out of the Constitution.

While I cannot see myself, a 45-year-old heterosexual man, wanting to marry another man, I also cannot see myself feeling like a warrior on the writer's consent or permission if I did. Sir, just go into your own home. Watch some TV or read a book. Spend time with your family. Run your own life and let others run theirs. As a nation we have bigger problems to spend our time on.

William E. Abernathy
Yokosuka, Japan

Don't follow leaders blindly

In response to the July 18 letter "Critics need a reality check." Since when is a president exempt from criticism?

When Bill Clinton was in office, the Republicans criticized everything he did. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, it is "unpatriotic." To quote Benjamin Franklin, "Patriotism is for the foolish."

We as Americans must resist the temptation to follow leaders blindly. If we examine the annals of history, some of the greatest atrocities might have been avoided if a few people had been critical of

their leaders: American slavery, the genocide of the natives in America, and Hitler's Nazis. Contrary to what people may say, humans have not evolved much since these events.

Because someone is critical of this war in Iraq does not mean that we are against our military. I love our American military. They are someone's son, daughter, husband and wife. That's why it pains me to no end to see them die for nothing. It upsets me even more to hear people say that they are dying for "freedom"; nothing is further from the truth.

They are dying for an obvious lie told by the president and his cabinet. Iraq was no threat to the United States. There were no weapons of mass destruction, and Iraq didn't have ties to Osama bin Laden.

Many of us complainers did vote; however the Supreme Court gave it to the other guy. In case the letter writer's memory is failing, the 2000 election was decided by Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and a right-wing Supreme Court.

We complain because we believe in the greatness of this country, and the even greater ideal that we are said to live by. To see an administration such as this tarnish the once-gold reputation of our nation is truly sad.

Gary Greene
Baghdad

Remember AAFES's savings

While serving downrange, I enjoy reading the Stars and Stripes daily to keep up with news back home. However, lately all I hear about are people complaining about how the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is too interested in profit by raising gas prices.

If you are not content with the service that AAFES provides, go ahead and buy your gas on the local market. While you're at it, don't bother shopping at the commissary, shopette, clothing and sales, or the post exchange either, since those are managed by AAFES as well.

Before you go around accusing AAFES of hoarding profits, why don't you go ahead and think about all the good AAFES is doing back home and downrange.

2nd Lt. Karl Chu
Camp Manzanita, Iraq



by G.B. Trudeau



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Arriving in the Nick of time Chicago Tribune

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the kid-friendly Nickelodeon cable channel will go dark for three hours. A graphic will appear on the screen urging youngsters to go outside and play. ...

What a great idea. Here's what we imagine. Thousands of children, blinking, will emerge in the blinding outdoor light, staggering from their darkened television rooms into the yards and sidewalks of every town in America.

Released from television bondage, they are confused, disoriented. But soon they adjust. They realize that unlike what they've seen on television, square yellow sponges don't talk. ...

Instead, they rediscover the wonders of a Saturday in autumn, in a world unfettered by the television camera, unsullied by the flash and glare of cartoons. With any luck, the imagination cranks to life. There are piles of leaves to crunch satisfyingly underfoot, or a football to toss. There's time to find a face in the clouds.

There are no commercial breaks.

Any parent who has grappled with a child to turn off the television and go outside to play will utter a small but fervent thank-you to Nickelodeon for its noble gesture, even if it turns out to be little more than a clever publicity stunt. ...

It may be revolutionary, but kids and parents realizing that they can survive for hours at a time without television. Or maybe they'll just change the channel.

Umbrella for rain of terror The Hays (Kan.) Daily News

Reforming the federal bureaucracy is not done easily or swiftly, even after a tragedy of 9/11 proportions.

Almost immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, one problem was clear: The nation's different intelligence agencies did not communicate well. In fact, they operated in silos as adversaries sometimes. So, they did not share information that might have set off more alarm about the threat of a domestic attack.

[A]lmost three years later, the Sept. 11 commission warned that the United States remains vulnerable to terrorist attack for the same reason. ...

That was not much different from ... the ideas that surfaced in the days and weeks immediately after the attacks.

So, now can we do something? Can we knock down the walls of bureaucracy that threaten our very existence? ...

What the government needs to do is complete and refine the concept of homeland security and create the 15-some intelligence agencies under the position [President] Bush already has tried to create to try to fix the stratification that left the country vulnerable to terrorism.

A vulnerability, we are told, that still remains.

Specifics make a statement The Huntsville (Ala.) Times

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge issued a new terror alert last week-end, but this one was significantly different from those that have preceded it.

Ridge's announcement named "anyone" as the specific target, he said, a variety of credible sources have identified as terrorist targets. ...



The identification of specific sites is a step forward in two ways.

First, it allows local, state and federal authorities to plan effective countermeasures. Merely having Ridge mention that the targets have been spotted may serve as a deterrent. Certainly, forewarned is forearmed for America's defenders of the nation.

Second, getting specific is a giant step forward for the average American's psyche. Vague warnings of potential threats and an ineffective color-coding system that rates the current levels of peril offered the public little to assess in terms of how much danger there was and what to do about it. ...

Now, at least, workers in the targeted areas, people having business there and others who'll be in the vicinity should be on their guard to a greater degree — and better able to assist law enforcement elements that have been alerted to protect them. ... What this doesn't mean, of course, is that these are the only targets that al-Qaida or some other terrorist organization might have their eyes on. Nor can authorities discount the possibility that what they've uncovered is "disinformation."

[W]hat we do know is that U.S. authorities say they have uncovered a plot, they've provided the public details of that plot and they've rallied forces to make sure that plot is thwarted. That's a very real improvement.

Networks don't have it covered The Press and Sun Bulletin of Binghamton, N.Y.

During the 1968 Democratic National Convention, demonstrators chanted "the whole world is watching." It was a politically charged time when America was involved in a war that many questioned.

Fast-forward to 2004's Democratic National Convention. America's again in a war. But this one is being fought on many fronts: Afghanistan, Iraq and wherever terrorists gather. The country is again polarized over our involvement. But is the "whole world watching?"

Apparently not. At a time when choices made by our government in response to the threat of terror or on many, critical do-

mestic issues are being debated, prime time network TV tuned out much of the convention in favor of reality TV leftovers. Some capitalism! Is democracy 0.

The major networks seem to assume that most households have access to cable TV where they can watch all news network news.

This is a perfect example of how public television fills a necessary void in America's communications industry. ... Public broadcasting obviously likes to celebrate the fact we live in a democracy.

Should TV only be about ratings (and income)? Apparently the major networks think so. The whole world is watching, though, and won't soon forget where their priorities lie.

Clear about cameras in cockpit The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

Four years ago, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that commercial aircraft be equipped with crash-resistant video cameras in cockpits. Had this advice been heeded, Americans might know more about how terrorists hijacked four jetliners on Sept. 11, 2001.

[Late] last [month] the board conducted hearings on its proposal, which has been expanded to request cameras on both large and small planes. Safety officials recognize the value of taping technology that can provide as much information as possible about the cause of accidents and security breaches.

The more investigators can learn, the better the chances of developing countermeasures.

Consumers speak for 'Spring' The Daily News of Longview, Wash.

The Bush administration is proposing to streamline the licensing of pesticides. But they're forgetting the message of "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's 1962 classic that exposed the hazards of DDT.

Carson's work helped lead to a 1973 federal ban on the pesticide, which scientists showed was destroying bald eagles by making eggshells too thin to survive. Thanks to that ban, the national bird is making a dramatic comeback.

But there still is work to be done. Across our nation, more and more studies

are showing that chemicals washed off our farms and gardens are damaging our fish and wildlife. ...

Scientists aren't the only ones worried about the flow of toxic chemicals into the environment. Consumers are expressing their fears as well — by voting with their pocketbooks. Witness the explosive growth of organic farms and the rise of organic food stores. ...

All this means that the Bush administration's proposal to weaken the review process for licensing new chemicals is bad politics as well as bad policy.

Hopefully policy will take stage Star Tribune of Minneapolis

For an hour (on the night of July 29), Sen. John Kerry got to speak directly to the American people, unfettered by the carping punditocracy, the Republican smear machine and Fox News. From this perspective, what the American people saw was a smart, serious and compassionate man. Kerry came across as a real human being — a man of integrity who believes deeply in the promise of America and seeks to steer the nation to a more secure, more prosperous future.

But the American people saw something else as well [that] evening. This is not just about John Kerry; this is about an entire Democratic Party that refuses to be marginalized, refuses to cede the American flag, religious faith and the badge of patriotism to Republicans. They made it clear. They care about this nation, and they intend that their voices be heard and heard in setting a new American course. ...

Kerry sketched in the briefest way his plans for domestic policy, and Americans will want more from him as the fall campaign unfolds. We would like to look forward to a campaign brimming with forceful clashes on specific policy proposals. We will see some of that in the presidential debates. Unfortunately, too much of the rest of the campaign is likely to be consumed by arguments about the severity of Kerry's wounds in Vietnam, whether Kerry staged film footage of combat, the use to which his wife puts her foundation funds and similar efforts to smear both men. Kerry asserted that, "America can do better." It can indeed, beginning with this fall's campaign.

YOUR MONEY

Susie's Job — Net Income Calculation

All figures in U.S. dollars

Item	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Week net	\$/hr
Income	15,000	1,250	300	300	7.50
Estimated expenses					
Federal tax	1,058	63	15	285	7.14
State tax	500	42	10	276	6.90
Social Security tax	1,148	96	22	254	6.34
Lunch	1,300	100	25	229	5.72
Clothes	1,560	120	30	199	4.97
Transportation	520	40	10	189	4.72
Total expenses	6,086	461	112		
Net income	8,914	789	188	189	4.72

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes

The work before the job

Jake and Susie ensure part-time gig has worth

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meeting of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week Susie built her résumé and cover letter.

Jake was supportive that night when I talked to him about sending out my résumés and how one of the jobs was on base and convenient for our commute. Jake liked the idea of my hands on a keyboard and improving my skills but he wanted to make sure my working expectations were in sync with the family's finances. Jake specifically recalled what Senior Chief Alston had taught him at Whidbey Island, saying, "The Senior Chief said as a general rule of thumb, if your spouse wants to work, she should be able to earn more after taxes than it costs to pay all of her work expenses. Work expenses included childcare, commuting costs, work clothes and lunches. I remember him saying you might have to make \$15,000 a year just to break even."

"Fifteen thousand dollars a year?" I asked, thinking I made more than that at the PC Shop.

"Remember, I am using \$15,000 as a break-even number," Jake replied, breaking out a piece of scratch paper and writing down a budget for the year, month, week and actual hourly

wage as he went along. "Fifteen thousand dollars is just to cover the cost of working. Before we have children, \$15,000 may not be a problem since the average full-time civilian employee works 2,000 hours a year. At that rate, you'll need to earn about \$7.50 an hour. Not a problem for someone with your abilities. But, when children

Money U.



Ralph Nelson

enter the picture and you add in the time required to keep the household going—including doctor visits and being home for house calls—we might want you to work only part time or about 1,000 hours a year.

"In order to earn the \$15,000 over 1,000 hours, you'll need to make \$15 an hour—which is closer to what you were making at the PC shop. Although \$15,000 sounds like a lot, you will really only be netting \$189 a week before child-care costs. Childcare might eat that up. I'm not saying

you working is a bad idea, we just have to think about these things."

"Fair enough," I replied, intrigued. Jake was thinking that far ahead to children.

"Then there is the question of what to do with the money that's left after taxes and work expenses," Jake said.

Here's something I didn't think about. Until now, I'd been able to spend my extra work

Net wage before childcare

\$/hr	Net \$/hr after estimated expenses	Net as percent of \$/hr
5	2.88	58%
6	3.62	60%
7	4.35	62%
8	5.09	64%
9	5.82	65%
10	6.55	66%
11	7.29	66%
12	8.02	67%
13	8.76	67%
14	9.49	68%
15	10.22	68%

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes

money on whatever I wanted. Now, I had a partner sharing everything he made. It made sense I'd share everything I made. Even with his logic, I was not totally comfortable sharing what I earned.

"What do you think we should do with the extra money from my job after taxes and expenses?" I asked, hoping he wanted to completely revamp my wardrobe and double the number of my shoes.

"I think we should put it into a no-load equity income mutual fund and talk about finishing up your business degree," he replied.

We talked briefly about earning enough to help me finish my business degree part time. That really excited me. Then I realized the best thing to do now was to save whatever I made. Sooner or later we'd need it for those new white sandals I wanted.

Next week Susie gets her job interview.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased online to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10271, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at www.savvyonline.com. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk, personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.osd.mil

Putting ID thefts on ice for a while

Several states now allow consumers to freeze credit reports as safety tactic

BY BRIAN BERGSTEIN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Little by little, a weapon against identity theft is gaining currency — but few people know about it.

It's called the security freeze, and it lets individuals block access to their credit reports until they personally unlock the files by contacting the credit bureaus and providing a PIN code.

The process is a bit of a hassle, and the credit-reporting industry believes it complicates things unnecessarily. But it appears to be one of the few ways to virtually guarantee that a fraudster cannot open an account in your name.

The freeze became an option in California and Texas last year, and Louisiana and Vermont will allow it beginning next July.

However, the Texas and Vermont laws apply only to people who already have been victimized by identity theft.

Only 2,000 Californians and 150 Texans have taken advantage of the freeze, according to Experian Inc., one of the three major credit bureaus.

But identity theft watchdogs say usage is low simply because the credit bureaus don't publicize the option. With identity theft apparently growing, the advocates hope the freeze gains national momentum. Congress resisted calls for a freeze rule during debate over a major credit law last year.

"It's the best protection we have," said Linda Foley, executive director of the Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego.

The Internet and consumer databases have made it easier than ever to find someone else's Social Security number and apply for accounts in that name. Meanwhile, obtaining credit is a breeze, as zero-percent financing offers crowd our mailboxes and appliance stores make no-money-down come-ons.

People who suspect trouble can place fraud alerts on their credit reports. But identity theft watchdogs say the alerts are often ignored by creditors who are unwilling, say, to gamble that the potential plasma TV purchaser in front of them is legitimate, and write off any losses that might occur if the person turns out to be a con artist.

A 2003 study for the Federal Trade Commission determined that in the previous year, 3.2 million Americans' personal information had been stolen by thieves who opened new accounts or loans. On average, victims lost \$1,180 and spent 60 hours resolving the problem.

The freeze costs nothing for ID theft victims in the states it is allowed. Louisiana's freeze is also free for people 62 and older.

For everyone else in California and Louisiana, the initial freeze is \$10. Unfreezing it temporarily is \$8 in Louisiana and up to \$12 in California. But the cost of each step is multiplied by three because it must be performed with all three major credit bureaus — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.

With the freeze on, if someone applies for credit in your name, the creditor will be unable to check your history, and the applicant will get rejected. (The freeze won't prevent credit card offers out of the mail — those are generated through a "prescreening" process that doesn't require full examination of your credit until you actually apply for the card.) If you want to apply for credit or let someone run a background check on you, you have to call the credit bureaus, provide the PIN, and say who a landlord, for example — will be inquiring about your history. Or you can thaw the credit report for a given period of time a week in which you're shopping for cars, for example.

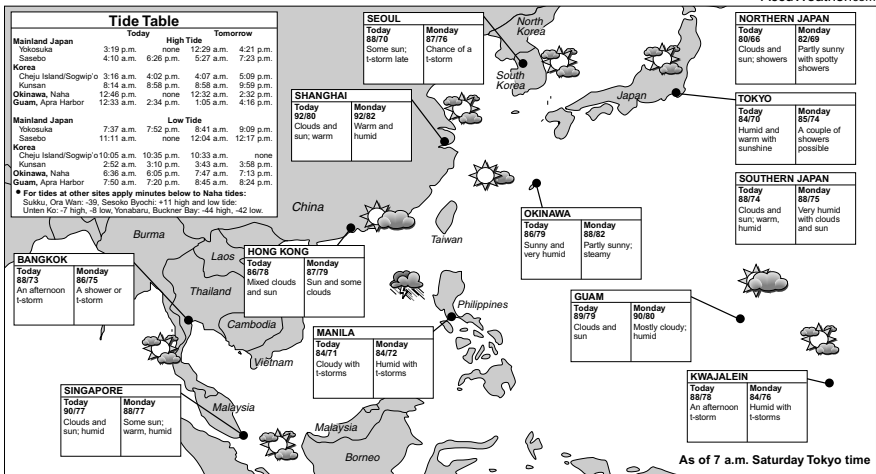
SEE STOLEN ON PAGE 29



Bridget Thomas sits at her home in Prairieville, La., on July 28 with the legislation she helped draft and get passed during her state's recent legislative session concerning identity theft. Identity theft is estimated to be up to a \$119 billion problem per year as of last year.

The Pacific Forecast

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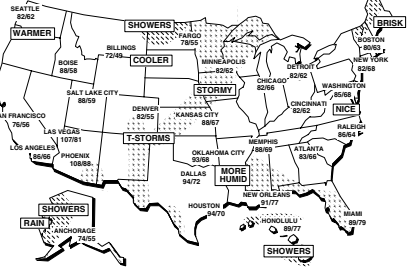
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 86, low 77. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 89, low 80.	KADENA Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 91, low 82. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 91, low 82.	SEOUL Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 92, low 77. Wednesday: Showers, high 92, low 76.	MANILA Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 75. Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 75.	HAGATNA Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 90, low 79. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 89, low 78.
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Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	87/66	Los Angeles	84/62
Amarillo	80/64	Little Rock	84/62
Anchorage	77/55	Louisville	77/58
Ashville	79/52	Miami	89/75
Baltimore	76/55	Milwaukee	74/59
Birmingham	87/58	Nashville	81/56
Bismarck	83/61	New York	75/58
Boise	91/56	Omaha	80/60
Boston	70/58	Orlando	90/74
Brownsville	99/78	Philadelphia	76/56
Buffalo	66/52	Phoenix	104/86
Burlington	68/50	Pittsburgh	69/48
Charleston, SC	87/62	Portland, OR	70/58
Charlotte	83/55	Portland, ME	72/54
Cleveland	72/54	Salt Lake City	95/65
Columbus, OH	73/54	St. Louis	81/60
Duluth	75/57	San Antonio	98/75
El Paso	100/75	San Diego	75/66
Cincinnati	74/52	San Juan	92/76
Helena	89/57	Tampa	89/74
Indianapolis	76/54	Tulsa	86/66
Jacksonville	90/66	Washington	77/60
Kansas City	80/58	Wichita	85/62

Sunday, August 08



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will stall along the Gulf Coast and northern Florida Sunday. Widespread showers and thunderstorms will affect Florida Sunday through Tuesday. Temperatures will continue to be pleasant across the remainder of the Southeast with low humidity. A cold front will move across the Midwest and Great Lakes Sunday into Monday, triggering showers and thunderstorms. Unseasonably cool air will follow the front into the northern Plains and Upper Midwest. More showers and thunderstorms will occur across the southern Rockies and southern High Plains. Blazing Sunday will accompany a heat wave across the West Coast Sunday through Tuesday. The only areas to escape the heat will be the immediate California coast.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/73	Iwakuni	89/76
Beijing	89/75	Kadena AB	86/79
Camp Casey	89/70	Kunsan AB	88/74
Diego Garcia	83/76	Kwajalein	88/78
Hagatna	83/76	Manila	84/71
Hanoi	88/77	Masawa AB	83/70
Hong Kong	86/78	Osan	89/73
Honolulu	89/77	Perth	61/46
		Pusan	86/75
		Sasebo	86/75
		Sapporo	80/66
		Seoul	88/70
		Shanghai	92/80
		Singapore	90/77
		Sydney	62/43
		Taegu	89/74
		Taipei	93/75
		Tokyo	84/70

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/77	Budapest	80/56	Kabul	101/64
Athens	89/71	Buenos Aires	54/39	Kiev	68/49
Auckland	54/43	Cairo	101/71	Kuwait	116/84
Baghdad	113/81	Cancun	88/74	London	81/61
Barbados	89/71	Cape Town	59/41	Madrid	91/58
Barcelona	81/68	Geneva	76/64	Mexico City	73/55
Berlin	84/64	Istanbul	84/70	Montreal	73/62
Bermuda	86/73	Jerusalem	92/63	Mogadishu	82/70
Brussels	87/66	Johannesburg	74/50	Moscow	81/59
				Warsaw	73/58



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Walter Scott's Personality PARADE

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Q I love to watch "Seinfeld" reruns, but I've always wondered: Who does the voice of Yankee boss George Steinbrenner? — Lori Vito, Cary, N.C.

A Larry David, 57, the talented co-creator of "Seinfeld" and current star of HBO's hit sitcom "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Q People once dismissed Prince as a bizarre has-been. Now he's in the midst of a great musical comeback. How do you account for his sudden new popularity? — Talia T., Washington, D.C.

A Dazzling musicianship, brilliant marketing (he funds his own projects, presses his own CDs and sells his music directly to fans) and a newfound spirituality (the singer converted to the Jehovah's Witness faith). And we'd add another factor: Unlike Madonna — who turns 46 this month and is still trying to woo audiences with showmanship and sexuality — Prince Rogers Nelson, also 46, is making beautiful music.



Prince

Q Is there any truth to stories that Cuban dictator Fidel Castro is in failing health? — Pam H., Ghent, N.Y.

A No. Those rumors are the result of wishful thinking on the part of anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Florida. Though Fidel may have had bouts of bad health in the past, he has bounced back and, at 77, is in robust shape. Fidel no longer smokes (he gave up cigars 18 years ago), and he follows a macrobiotic diet. Incidentally, this year Fidel celebrates his 45th year in power. During that same period, the U.S. has had 10 Presidents.

Q Where does hotel heiress and "Simple Life" star Paris Hilton get those beautiful clothes for her tiny dog? — Name withheld

A Paris shops for Tinkerbell — a 4-pound teacup Chihuahua — at Fifi & Romeo, a West Hollywood boutique known for pet apparel. Owner Yana Syrkin, former costume designer for Ally McBeal, tells us Tinkerbell has a \$32 pink rhinestone collar, a \$75 custom-embroidered T-shirt and a \$270 green angora sweater. Most nonheirish 23-year-olds spend less on their own clothes.



Fox

Paris Hilton holds her fashionably dressed teacup chihuahua, Tinkerbell, at a AA baseball game in Austin, Texas, in an episode of "The Simple Life 2: Road Trip." Nicole Richie, right, displayed her pup as well.

Q You asked PARADE readers to imagine what Bill Murray whispered to Scarlett Johansson in the final scene of "Lost in Translation." Who came up with the best reply? — Della D., Richmond, Va.

A That honor goes to Terrie Lofton of McComb, Miss., who wrote: "I think he said, 'Wherever you go, I will find you. This is not the end, it's only the beginning.'" Maybe Terrie was indulging in wishful thinking — that 53-year-old Bill and 19-year-old Scarlett would team up in another movie. Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea.

Q My mother told me that French actor Maurice Chevalier was a Nazi collaborator during World War II. True or false? — Don King, San Diego

A Mothers are never wrong, but yours is a bit confused in this case. It's true that Chevalier, who died in 1972 at age 83, was accused of collaboration. But the entertainer was acquitted after the war and became a bigger international star than before, most famous for singing "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" in the 1938 musical "Gigi."

Q Is it true that David Palmer, former arranger and keyboard player for the '70s band Jethro Tull, had a sex-change operation? — J. Tovar, Sanford, Fla.

A Palmer, 67, now known as "Dee," announced the gender switch in London last January. Fans who remember the pipe-smoking musician were shocked to see him as a woman with blond hair and thick makeup. Palmer says he was aware of gender confusion as a child but only decided to make the switch after his wife died.

Q As a fan of Robin Cook, I'm anxiously awaiting his next book. What's taking him so long? — Karyn Cox, Ann Arbor, Mich.

A Cook, 64, who has sold 100 million copies of his medical thrillers, tells us he's working on his 25th title, which may be out next summer. But as our pal Elaine Kaufman, the author-friendly owner of New York's famed nightclub Elaine's, says: "The stopwatch is for track, not for writers."



movieweb.com

Bill Murray follows Scarlett Johansson in the climax of "Lost in Translation." When Murray reaches Johansson, he whispers something to her. PARADE asked readers to send in what they thought Murray said.

Q Why hasn't Oscar-winner Halle Berry divorced her cheating hubby, singer Eric Benet? — Deb Roberts, Provo, Utah

A She's trying, but Benet, 33, hasn't made it easy. Until he withdrew his petition last month, he'd tried to break their 2001 prenup to get spousal support from Berry, 37, who earned \$14 million for her new film, "Catwoman." Now he insists he doesn't need her money. Our advice to Halle: You don't need him either — or his problems.

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KRT

"Catwoman" actress Halle Berry is all smiles in public despite rumors of domestic strife with husband Eric Benet.



FACES 'N' PLACES

Kline finds Cole Porter film role 'De-Lovely'

Biography depicts composer's double life

BY DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

CANNES, France — Generally bemused over the conventions of celebrity journalism, Kevin Kline groans when he reads about himself in print with one of his best-known films inserted as his middle name. Kevin "The Big Chill" Kline or Kevin "Sophie's Choice" Kline.

Just now, though, Kline's doing his own alteration on his middle name.

My middle name's Delaney, but this week, it's "De-Lovely," Kline. It's better than Kevin "A Fish Called Wanda" Kline," the actor said at May's Cannes Film Festival, where film biography "De-Lovely" was the closing movie. The film opened statewide last month.

Kline, 56, who studied piano and music before switching to drama in college, plays Cole Porter in a fanciful portrait of the composer whose tunes include "Anything Goes," "You're the Top," "Love for Sale," "Night and Day" and the title song, "It's De-Lovely."

Unlike the sanitized 1946 Porter biopic "Night and Day," starring Cary Grant, "De-Lovely" pulls no punches in depicting the composer's double life as a gay icon in a largely platonic marriage with Linda Porter (Ashley Judd) and a gay man with a fondness for picking up pretty young women and boy brothers.

Cole and Linda were best friends and soul mates, and she remained his muse, even though he found sexual pleasure elsewhere, Kline said.

There are lots of great juicy stories of numerous, prodigious sexual encounters," Kline said of Porter. "He never was apologetic. He may have been tormented by it. Certainly, he wrote a lot of songs. 'What Is This Thing Called Love?' I think he was constantly investigating, exploring what love was."

"What I love is, here's a movie, a Hollywood love story, that doesn't use sexual passion as the foundation, where there's got to be the great love scene, where they make love. So here's a really different kind of love story."

The film's structure is equally unconventional, with a theatricality suitable to Porter's grand and showy personality. The movie opens on Porter as an old, lonely man nearing death (in 1964) when a mysterious stranger who turns out to be the archangel Gabriel (Jonathan Pryce) materializes in the composer's home.

Gabriel whisks Porter off to a theater where long-gone loved ones are in rehearsal for a performance of his life story. "De-Lovely" then flits back and forth between a more standard film-biography structure and the Gabriel fantasy, eventually building to Pryce and Kline performing Porter's spirited tune "Blow, Gabriel, Blow."

That approach, crafted by screenwriter Jay Cocks ("Gangs of New York"), nicely fits the self-mythologizing image that the amateur Porter sought to create, Kline said.

"Cole Porter was not ever keen on hanging out his dirty laundry or telling his real story to anyone. He was creating a myth, a good story, which I think Jay Cocks captured," Kline said.

"It's like, come on, this is theater, it's got to be entertaining. He lives a life which was a kind of theater. So I think it's the perfect sort of conceit for the movie, in that blip, that split second before you die,



Kevin Kline and Ashley Judd star as Cole and Linda Porter in MGM Pictures' musical drama "De-Lovely," which pulls no punches in depicting the composer's double life as a spouse in a platonic marriage and a gay man.

when your life flashes before your eyes. For Cole Porter, it would be a musical."

Kline is a Hollywood rarity equally at home in broad comedy ("A Fish Called Wanda"), which earned him an Academy Award) and heavy drama ("Sophie's Choice," "The Ice Storm").

A two-time Tony winner, Kline had another Tony nomination this year for his performance as Falstaff in "Henry IV."

Kline now is filming "The Pink Panther" with old pal Steve Martin, with whom he co-starred in 1991's "Grand Canyon." Martin fills the bumbling Inspector Clouseau role created by Peter Sellers, while Kline takes on the part originated by Herbert Lord as the detective's long-suffering boss.

His versatility served him well in "De-Lovely," which required Kline to play an effervescent wag in Porter's early days and a tragic cripple in the later years, after a horseback-riding accident that crushed the composer's legs.

"Kevin's so abundantly talented and can play the grace and elegance of Porter and be the clown with equal flair," co-star Judd said.

"De-Lovely" was a reunion for Kline and director Irwin Winkler, who previously collaborated on 2001's "Life As a House."

Winkler had been developing "De-Lovely" for years and mentioned it to Kline while they were making that earlier film. The director joked that Kline usually spends three years mulling whether he's interested in a role, then says no.

"But this time, it was three minutes, and

he said yes," Winkler said.

They had a warm working relationship on "Life As a House" but had an early disagreement on "De-Lovely." Winkler intended to put modern pop and rock singers into the film as 1920s and '30s crooners of Porter tunes.

Kline felt it was a terrible idea, worried that the singers' styles would undermine a period film.

"What I love is, here's a movie, a Hollywood love story, that doesn't use sexual passion as the foundation, where there's got to be the great love scene, where they make love. So here's a really different kind of love story."

Kevin Kline

piano skills. A talented vocalist, Kline found it comparatively easy to croon as Porter, who had a passable voice but was not known as a singer.

"It's that thing of being able to play without looking at the piano keys. You're playing something for the first time for someone, and you own this song," Kline said.

"So I was more concerned by the harmonic structure of the song, having my fingers find the right place to bend, than singing. I think we have enough great singing in the movie, so that part wasn't a burden."

Falco treated for cancer

"Sopranos" star Edie Falco was diagnosed last year with breast cancer, but has completed her treatment and is healthy, a representative for the 41-year-old actress said in New York.

Falco worked on the HBO show during her treatment, but her representative wouldn't comment Wednesday on whether she underwent chemotherapy or surgery.

She will soon begin rehearsals for Marsha Norman's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Night, Mother," also starring Brenda Blethyn, which will open on Broadway in November.

Falco has won three Emmy Awards for her role as mob wife Carmela Soprano on "The Sopranos," and has been nominated for a fourth Emmy this year.



Falco

Smith treats fans to song, film

Will Smith delighted fans in London with an outdoor concert before the British premiere of his latest film, "I, Robot."

Accompanied by DJ Jazzy Jeff, Smith performed for about 3,000 people Wednesday outside the Odeon theater in Leicester Square. The set included hits "Summer-time" and "Men in Black," and Smith's latest single, "Switch."

"When you have these kind of events, everybody can't get in. I wanted to give the people who came to support me a little treat out here," the 35-year-old actor-rapper said.

"I, Robot," a sci-fi thriller in which 35-year-old actor-rapper Smith plays a detective investigating androids run amok, allowed him to blend two long-standing interests, science and movies, he said.

Bono pays tribute to friend

Bono sang at a private funeral for Susan Buffett, wife of billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

The lead singer of U2 flew into Omaha, Neb., on Sunday night and left shortly after Monday's service at Countryside Community Church. She and Bono had shared a concert for AIDS awareness and prevention.

Buffett, 72, died of a stroke last Thursday while she and her husband were visiting friends in Cody, Wyo. The funeral was limited almost entirely to members of the immediate family.

Kiss to tape concert for DVD

Kiss announced it will tape a concert in Mexico City this month for distribution on DVD.

In a conference call Tuesday from Palm Beach, Fla., singer Paul Stanley said the band would tape its Aug. 17 show in Mexico City.

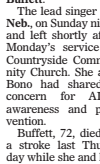
Tickets for the concert at the Palacio de los Deportes sold out quickly.

Stanley didn't indicate when the DVD would go on sale, but said it would be distributed internationally.

From The Associated Press



Smith



Bono

Sunday Horoscope

The spotlight swirls around to each and every one of us under the Leo sun, so be sure you know what you're going to do when it's your turn. Getting your story straight means being clear on your own mind how you really feel about what's going on in the world. The moon enters Gemini tonight, bringing a second wind.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 8). Reach down inside yourself for true grit. Your passion is ignited by competition this month—you do well when you concentrate on your own gains and not on your opponent. Relationships turn your world topsy-turvy in September—some of you will even move to be with a special love. A windfall in September is connected with your talent.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your picture of the perfect relationship is not wrong, but it's different from a loved one's ideas. A conversation will clear up misunderstandings. Long-running success is possible when you're acting toward long-term goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You don't need to say you are a good person because others can tell. You'll get a second chance. Don't tempt fate again. The gears are in motion toward commitment. Bone up on your talent; you'll use it tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Success is not without struggle. Challenges only serve to show others how accomplished you can be. You'll be able to turn the tables in an unequal relationship. Be careful not to gloat, though, or this win becomes very temporary.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Enjoy the fun of having your true friends nearby, and don't worry about everything being perfect. You are more attractive than you know. When you saved your sanity, Sagittarius and Pisces bring luck.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Special prizes will be all around you. Think twice before you even start. Couples easily gain one another's trust but should carefully guard this

because it is also easily lost. Dare to openly express emotions tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Make those plans for the future, but keep them to yourself for now. A jealous female should be handled with care. Put a little spice into your love life to keep things from becoming predictable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You'll get the green light on expansion or education plans. Make up for mistakes as soon as possible. Look behind you as you leave a bus or restaurant booth; it's easy to lose things today. You could find what someone else left.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

If you have been neglecting your dreams in favor of a joyless reality, it's time to change the bad habits. Unexpected and late guests make the day more interesting. Do what you can to include elders in the festivities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are now better equipped to handle a family responsibility. You also have the power to rekindle love if you choose it. Because of your selfless efforts, a better relationship develops with a parent, spouse or friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Indecision interferes with luck, so be certain and clear. Pay no attention to what others think; do your life your way. Love is out to snag you. Enjoy the fun, but don't go too far with spending or imbibing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Envy could alter the dynamic of important friendships. Anticipate this problem, and stay away from potentially incendiary statements. You'll have to interpret signals from loved ones.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll be in a poetic mood and will wish to share it. When people look at you cross-eyed, you'll think it's not easy to be a dreamer. But when they applaud and laugh, you'll feel triumphant—your whimsy is someone else's delight.

Creators Syndicate

Getting vexed by 'vexillologist'

Well, he did it again. On the Fourth of July my know-it-all cousin stumped me with a word I'd never heard before. I'm not even sure how to spell it—"vexillologist?"

Don't be vexed by "vexillologist." Your cousin undoubtedly used your Independence Day celebration to bring it up because it is the word for a person who studies flags. Vexillologists undertake scholarly investigations of flags, producing papers with titles such as "A Review of the Changing Proprietors of Rectangular Flags Since Medieval Times, and Some Suggestions for the Future." Whitney Smith, a pi-

oneer in the field, is credited with having coined the term "vexillology" in the late 1950s for the study of flags.

An article I read used the term "fifth column." I have never heard this phrase before. What is a "fifth column?"

"Fifth column" is a term used to refer to a group of secret sympathizers or supporters of an enemy within defensive or national borders, and especially such a group that engages in espionage or sabotage.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Leaving your dog unrestrained in a moving vehicle is a bad idea

Dear Abby: I found my dog, "Belle," last year at the pound. We bonded instantly and I knew I had to take her. She was sweet, funny and fearless.

I remembered the truck commercials on TV where the message was dogs love trucks. Belle was no exception. The day I bought my used pickup, she hopped into the bed and was ready to go. It seemed that half the vehicles I saw growing up were old pickups with dogs—always unrestrained.

At first, there were short trips to the store or on a back road. But after a month, we got more adventures.

Sometimes Belle would get excited and lean over and snap at passing cars. That should have warned me, but at the time I thought it was funny. I never occurred to me to be concerned.

Not until she fell out.

I watched in the mirror as she tumbled to the road. Belle survived the fall and started to get up, but before she could get out of the way, an oncoming car hit her.

It was stupid, awful and com-

pletely unexpected. And it could have been prevented. A simple harness, or better yet, keeping my beautiful Belle in the cab would have saved her life.

Now, because of a stupid, mahoogenic I had of a man, his dog and his truck, I have lost a beloved friend. Please, Abby, warn your readers that if they have a pet they care about, not to allow it to ride unrestrained in a truck bed.

—Grieving in Lexington, Ky.

Dear Grieving: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved pet.

I'm printing your reminder for the benefit of other pet owners, but I would like to extend it. I frequently see young children standing on the seats of vehicles driven by their mothers. Mom chats away on her cell phone.

I have also seen pets and people riding unrestrained in the back of open trucks. It takes only a moment for an accident to happen. These kinds of accidents can be life-altering or fatal. So please, folks, use a little restraint—the kind that buckles.



Dear Abby

Consider legal options for life without nightmarish husband

Dear Annie: Tonight, my always grumpy, sometimes hateful and often mean husband of almost 15 years shot my pet poodle to death. "Edgar" had flown into a rage because of something he blamed me for, and he took out his anger on my sweet dog. He emptied the gun into my poor little body. When my daughter grabbed his arm and tried to stop him, he threw her to the floor.

She and I were hysterical and are devastated. Edgar was arrested for animal cruelty, which I believe is a felony in my state. He might actually serve time. Under no circumstances will he be returning to this home or to our marriage. It's over.

I am currently having a very bad time with rheumatoid arthritis and was forced to apply for Social Security disability. I was turned down and am appealing. I can hardly see through the tears. What in the world do I do now? I have a child to take care of and an ailing baby.

At the moment, I have exactly \$30 in my purse. Edgar receives several pension checks each month. Can I sue for child support or spousal support? Can I access his money while he is in jail?

—Grieving Over West

Dear Grieving: Edgar is a brute, and you are well rid of him. You are entitled to child support if your daughter is under age 18, and you may be able to get spousal support as well. You can access Edgar's money if your accounts are held jointly.

There are attorneys who will help you for free or on a sliding scale. Check with your local women's associations and law schools, or contact the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (www.nalad.org), 1140 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20036. We'll be thinking of you.

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I am 15 years old and a sophomore in high school. Last year, I had this teacher who made my life miserable. Here's what happened: We were supposed to have our supplies by the end of the week, but since both my parents work, they never found time to take me to the store to get the supplies. I explained this to "Mrs. Smith," and she said I'd get half credit if I brought the supplies by Monday, which I did. However, when I told my dad about it, he called Mrs. Smith and said it was his fault I didn't have my supplies and she should give me 100 percent credit.

Dear Abby: I recently relocated to live near my son, "Gary," and his girlfriend, "Gina." Gary supports his Gina and her two children, and talks constantly about marrying her and adopting the kids. Gary believes that Gina will marry him one day, but she has confessed to me that once she finishes college and starts her career, she does not want to marry me to my son.

I'm torn between telling Gary the truth and hurting him (not to mention damaging our relationship), or letting him find out in two years that he has been seriously used.

—Torn Mom in California

Dear Torn: Talk to Gina and urge her to level with your son. If she refuses, then you must do it. If he finds out in two years that you knew all along that he was being used and said nothing, it will be more damaging to your relationship than if you tell him the truth now. He won't like hearing it, but you must tell him what Gina told you. If he were my son, I would.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Abby, P.O. Box 6848, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.unrestrained.com/dearabby>

Universal Service Syndicate

He did it, but she told me it was not fair to the other students who were not in their supplies late. From then on, I got nothing but attitude from her. She even insinuated that I used drugs. Annie, I have never touched drugs and don't plan to.

Here's the real problem: In spite of what I thought were good grades, Mrs. Smith said I failed her class so I have to retake it this year. What should I do when I have her again? I know she is going to treat me terribly.

—Ticked Off in Texas

Dear Texas: Your father's interference, while well-intentioned, pressured Mrs. Smith into doing something she resented. She then took out her resentment on you. Your parents should see if you can have a different teacher for this class. If not, the principal should speak to Mrs. Smith and see if that she does not need to be removed for less than a year. It also wouldn't hurt for you to talk to her directly, and calmly, and let her know you're sorry you got off on the wrong foot and hope to do better this time around. Teachers appreciate that kind of effort.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the fan letters column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@unrestrained.com or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 3777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

Creators Syndicate

Rolen's homer provides big lift for Cards

Carpenter gains career-best 12th win for St. Louis

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Chris Carpenter could hardly control his emotions after Scott Rolen's late home run.

"I was fired up," Carpenter said. "I love being a part of this team. It's so exciting to come to the field every night and feeling and knowing — you have a chance to win."

Rolen hit a tie-breaking homer in the eighth inning and Carpenter pitched eight innings for his career-high 12th victory to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Expos on Thursday night.

"When somebody does something special like that, well, I was fired up," Carpenter said. "It's just a great experience to play with the guys on this team."

Jim Edmonds also homered for the Cardinals, who have won 13 of 17 to move a season-high 31 games over .500.

"Two big swings," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said.

Rolen hit his 26th homer over the center-field fence on a 2-1 pitch in the Luis Ayala (2-7) leading-off the eighth. It was Rolen's major league-leading 98th RBI and his first home run in a game since May 27. His previous 13 homers came on the road.

"My numbers at Busch Stadium are less than stellar, but I've never had good numbers here when I was with the team, and now that I'm here," Rolen said, "I always seem to hit a little better on the road. I don't know what the reason is."

"I threw my best pitch," Ayala said after his scoreless string was snapped at 26½ innings. "I think



Philadelphia's Marlon Byrd flags down a drive by San Diego's Khalil Greene during Thursday night's game.

he was waiting for that pitch and it was a good pitch. I threw it inside, my sinker, and it was for a strike — and that's the game."

Carpenter (12-4) allowed one run and four hits in eight innings, striking out seven and walking one. He improved to 5-0 against Montreal in seven career starts.

"All my pitches were there," Carpenter said. "I felt like I had a good game plan going in. My changeup was much better than it has been all year. I was able to get ahead in the counts."

Jason Iringhausen pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 33 chances.

Edmonds homered on the first pitch from starter John Patterson leading off the third, tying it 1-1. It was Edmonds' 30th homer and eighth in 13 games. He has also raised his batting average to .303.

Edmonds has scored at least one run in his past 11 games, the longest streak this season for a St. Louis player. He has hit 30 or more homers in four of his past five seasons with the Cardinals.

"I don't really know," Edmonds said when asked what's behind his streak. "I'm just going out there and trying to get some hits. It's a weird game. I just go out there and play the game."

Braves 6, Astros 5: Pinch-hitter Marcus Giles' sacrifice fly drove in the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth.

With the score 5-5, J.D. Drew hit a leadoff single and Chipper Jones doubled off reliever Dan Miceli (4-6). After an intentional

walk to Andrew Jones loaded the bases, Giles hit a lazy fly to right that scored Drew.

Eli Marrero hit a two-run homer and Julio Franco also drove in two runs for the Braves, who have won seven of their past eight and 11 of 13.

Juan Cruz (4-0) pitched a perfect eighth for the victory and John Smoltz threw a scoreless ninth for his 27th save in 29 opportunities.

Phillies 5, Padres 3 (10): David Bell hit a two-run single off Trevor Hoffman in the ninth to give the visiting Phillies their third straight victory.

With two outs and the bases loaded, Bell singled to right field to score Jimmy Rollins and Placido Polanco. The Phillies remained 4½ games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East. Felix Rodriguez (4-5) pitched one hitless inning and Tim Worrell got three outs for his 13th save.

In the 10th, Rollins hit a one-out infield single off Hoffman (2-2) and Polanco followed with a ground-rule double. Hoffman intentionally walked Bobby Abreu to load the bases and then struck out Jim Thome, bringing up Bell.

San Diego dropped to a season-high 6½ games behind Los Angeles in the NL West.

Phillies starter Kevin Millwood left after two innings with inflammation in his right elbow.

The Padres received a solid start from Sterling Hitchcock, who made his first appearance in more than 10 months. He allowed three runs on four hits in six innings.

Marlins 11, Diamondbacks 5: Carl Pavano (12-4) pitched into the eighth inning on three days' rest and hit an RBI single, leading victory.

Paul Lo Duca and Miguel Cabrera homered as Florida ended a four-game losing streak. Pavano won his third straight to match his career high for victories, allowing five runs and seven hits in 7½ innings.

Power outage nothing new for punchless Sox

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Zack Greinke pitched lights out on a night when the lights went out at Kauffman Stadium.

Greinke (4-8) allowed one run in seven innings and Matt Stairs homered twice in the Kansas City Royals' 6-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday night in a game delayed 24 minutes by a power outage in the ninth inning.

The teams were just about to start the top of the ninth when the stadium lights brightened momentarily before going out in two-thirds of the ballpark. The scoreboard and videoboard also lost power, which returned moments later before going out again.

After about 13 minutes, the game was ready to resume. Royals reliever D.J. Carrasco was in his windup set to throw a pitch to



Paul Konerko when power went out yet again for another 11 minutes.

"The first thing I thought was that this was a get-away day for the White Sox, so I felt bad for them," Greinke said.

The Royals said the outages at the ballpark and surrounding areas were due to a problem with a transformer outside the stadium.

Greinke said it wasn't the first time he saw the lights go out during a game.

"When I was younger, we were warming up in the cages during the game," he said of a game he played in when he was 12. "We were trying to figure out how to turn the lights on in the cages, so

we started flipping switches and we turned the lights out on the game."

When play resumed, Carrasco struck out Konerko before Jose Valentin hit a solo homer to make it 6-2. Ben Davis and pinch-hitter Joe Borchard singled and Willie Harris walked to load the bases.

Nate Field came in and struck out Aaron Rowand before giving up a bloop two-run single to Timo Perez. Field then got Carlos Lee to pop out to end the game for his third save in four opportunities.

"We really haven't been swinging the bats well for about three weeks," Konerko said. "It's nothing new. We're in a rut. If we knew, we'd fix it."

It was the second straight game in which the White Sox mounted little offense. They managed just two hits off Brian Anderson in Wednesday's 11-0 loss.

"Both of their pitchers threw really well the last two nights,"

Konerko said. "They were throwing strikes and throwing quality strikes. Both of them were throwing the kind of pitches that you can't do much with. I know we're better than we are, but I don't want to take away from those two guys."

Greinke allowed just three hits for his second straight victory after winning just two of his first 10 decisions. He struck out six and walked none.

"It was definitely one of my better efforts," Greinke said. "Everything was working in its own way. I think all my pitches were complementing the other ones."

Jon Garland (7-8) gave up six runs on seven hits in seven innings for Chicago, which lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Greinke's only baserunners in the first 4½ innings reached on two errors by shortstop Angel Berroa. Greinke gave up his first hit on blooper by Joe Crede with two outs in the fifth.

Stairs broke a scoreless tie in the fourth inning with a solo homer and capped a five-run fifth with a three-run blast, his 15th.

Mariners 4, Devil Rays 2 (11): Randy Winn and Bret Boone each hit RBI singles during a three-run 11th and Seattle snapped a six-game losing streak.

Miguel Olivo drew a leadoff walk from Tampa Bay closer Danys Baez (3-2) in the 11th and went to second on Justin Leone's sacrifice bunt. Olivo advanced to third on a single by Jose Lopez and scored when third baseman Geoff Blum misplayed Ichiro Suzuki's grounder for an error. Suzuki was credited with an RBI.

Winn and Boone followed with consecutive run-scoring singles to make it 4-1, sending Seattle to just its second victory in 23 road games.

Scott Atchison (1-0) pitched two innings for his first major league victory.

Clemens gets apology after 'unjust' ejection

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

Roger Clemens was given an emphatic apology Thursday for "unjustly" being ejected from his 10-year-old son's baseball game last weekend in Colorado. David King, president of tournament organizer Triple-A Crown Sports, said, "Mr. Clemens was a non-aggressor and a victim of mistaken identity and confusion" by an upset umpire.

Clemens was asked to leave son Kacy's game Saturday in Craig, Colo., when a 22-year-old umpire said the Houston Astros pitcher spit a sunflower seed at him. Moments earlier, Kacy was called out on a stolen base attempt — the fielder later admitted he missed the tag — and the Rocket watched the rest of the contest from a parking lot.

"Mr. Clemens never raised his voice, never physically confronted our official, nor was he ever on the field of play," King said in a written statement, underlining those words.

"Mr. Clemens was unjustly asked to leave the field of play," King said. "For all of this, we apologize to Mr. Clemens."

King spoke to Clemens by telephone to apologize personally.

"I'm pleased with their statement," Clemens said through agent Alan Hendricks before Houston played Atlanta.

Earlier, Clemens became upset when discussing the episode, saying, "This is a shame and it's not even an issue."

Clemens was away from the Astros, as his deal with the team allows when he's not pitching, to watch his son play for the Katy (Texas) Cowboys in a 10-and-under tournament.

Clemens was sitting behind a fence near the first base dugout, when Kacy was called out at second base in the middle innings of a game the Bakersfield (Calif.) Curve won 11-5.

Katy coaches and fans complained about the call, but witnesses said Clemens didn't say a word. The umpire came over to quiet the ruckus and said he was in the pants cuff by a sunflower seed spit by Clemens.

Clemens left without an argument and said "he didn't want to be distraction and to let the boys play ball," Katy manager Doug Hanson said.

With all the complaining the Katy coaches were doing, one of them probably deserved to be gone," King said. "But the vision and the reality, it took it in a direction that didn't happen."

Mariners send Myers to Red Sox

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners traded left-handed reliever Mike Myers to the Boston Red Sox on Friday for a player to be named or cash.

Myers joined Seattle before spring training and went 4-1 with a 4.88 ERA in 10 relief appearances this season. He pitched 27 1/3 innings, allowing 29 hits and 17 walks while striking out 23.

To fill the spot on the major league roster, the Mariners recalled right-hander Cha Seung Beak from Triple-A Tacoma. He was expected to join the team in Tampa Bay for Friday's game.

Myers has appeared in 659 major league games, all in relief, with a 16-21 record and 14 saves. He also has pitched for Florida, Detroit, Milwaukee, Colorado and Arizona since coming up in 1995.

South Korean Beak spent most of the season with Tacoma, making 11 starts with a 4.3 record and 4.28 ERA.

Rangers' Nelson on DL

DETROIT — The Texas Rangers placed reliever Jeff Nelson on the 15-day disabled list Thursday with an injured right elbow and recalled pitcher Ryan Suarez from Triple-A Oklahoma.

Nelson was on the disabled list with elbow and knee problems from May 13 to July 25. He has ap-



peared in 17 games this season, going 0-2 with one save and a 5.28 ERA.

Share is 9-4 with a 4.12 ERA in 20 relief appearances for Oklahoma.

Tommy John dislocates hip

NEW YORK — Staten Island Yankees manager Tommy John fello and dislocated his right hip on Thursday before his team played Lowell in the New York-Penn League.

The former New York Yankees pitcher was standing with his foot on a tire of the movable batting cage when he went down, the New York Post reported Friday.

John, who dislocated the hip twice before, reportedly twisted the prosthetic joint and caused it to pop out of its socket. The two previous dislocations enabled John to know what position to keep himself in to avoid severe pain.

"I'll be back in the third or fourth inning," John said before police, fire and emergency medical personnel arrived.

John was admitted to St. Vincent's hospital on Staten Island and was placed under general anesthesia so doctors could put the hip back in place. He was expect-

ed to walk out of the hospital on Friday.

John played 26 major league seasons, posted 288 victories, was a four-time All-Star and excelled in big moments. But he's become most well-known in recent years for being the first player to have the career-saving elbow operation that now carries his name.

Burrell out with wrist injury

SAN DIEGO — The Philadelphia Phillies placed left fielder Pat Burrell on the 15-day disabled list on Thursday with a strained left wrist.

Burrell, batting .263 with 18 home runs and 68 RBIs this season, said he injured the wrist during batting practice Tuesday.

All-Stars to tour Japan in Nov.

NEW YORK — A major league all-star team will tour Japan in November, and Albert Pujols and Alfonso Soriano are among the players who have agreed to make the trip.

The eight-game trip is scheduled for Nov. 5-14 and includes games in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Osaka, Sapporo and Nagoya. The major league All-Stars will face an All-Star team from the Japanese leagues.

Moises Alou, Hank Blalock and Johnny Estrada also have agreed to play. The rest of the 28-man roster and the manager will be announced later.

Free agent Hull signs two-year contract with Coyotes

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Brett Hull, third on the NHL's career goals list, signed a two-year contract with the Phoenix Coyotes on Friday.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The free agent forward, an 18-year veteran who spent the past three seasons with Detroit, has 741 goals — second only to Coyotes managing partner Wayne Gretzky's 894 and Gordie Howe's 801. Hull, who turns 40 on Monday, has also scored 103 playoff goals, fourth behind Gretzky, Mark Messier and Jan Kurri.

"He is a dynamic player who creates excitement every time he enters the offensive zone," Coyotes General Manager Michael

Sports briefs

Barnett said.

Bobby Hull Jr., the player's brother and agent, did not immediately respond to messages left at his office and on his cell phone.

Brett Hull, drafted by Calgary in the sixth round in 1984, has played for the Flames, St. Louis, Dallas and Detroit. He won Stanley Cups with the Stars (1999) and Red Wings (2002), scoring the Cup-winning goal for Dallas in a triple-overtime Game 6 victory against Buffalo.

He has 649 assists and 1,390 points in 1,264 regular-season games, and 87 assists (190 points) in 202 playoff games.

Hull, a nine-time All-Star, won the Hart Trophy (league MVP) in

1991 and was the All-Star Game MVP in 1992.

He had his three best seasons in succession with St. Louis, with 72 goals and 113 points in 1989-90, career highs for goals (86) and points (131) in 1990-91 and 70 goals and 109 points the next year.

In other NHL news, center Michal Handzus avoided arbitration and signed a three-year contract with the Philadelphia Flyers on Friday.

Handzus scored 20 goals and had a career-high 38 assists for the Flyers last season. He has played in 195 straight games over the past two seasons.

Pampering leads International

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Rod Pumping hit every fairway and

had 15 points under The International's modified Stableford scoring system, leading Geoff Ogilvy, Jose Coceres and Chris DiMarco by a point before rain forced half the field to complete the first round early Friday.

Players receive 8 points for a double eagle, 5 for an eagle, 2 for a birdie, zero for par, minus-1 for a bogey and minus-3 for a double bogey or worse.

Sorenstam trails Moedde, Morgan in HP Open

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Janice Moedde of Scotland and Becky Morgan of Wales shot second straight day on Ulana's tough lake-side course for a share of the lead in the HP Open on Friday.

Hall of Famer Annika Soren-

stam, who grew up nearby but has not played the course since she was an amateur 15 years ago, failed to make a move and shared fourth, but was just two shots off the lead at 142.

Green second again in 100

ZURICH, Switzerland — Jamaican Asafa Powell beat Maurice Greene again in the 100 meters Friday in the Weltklasse Golden League meet, further establishing himself as a top contender for Olympic gold.

Powell, who won his third straight 100-meter race, behind Greene until pulling away in the final 20 meters to win in 9.93. Greene was second in 9.94.

Powell also beat Greene in a meet in London on July 31.

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Chaney's home run in 6th grounds wins

Outfielder leads 3rd Force to repeat in Marine Forces Pacific softball

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — When things appeared darkest for 3rd Force Service Support Group, former All-Armed Forces outfielder Gary Chaney came to the rescue.

Chaney hit a three-run home run with two out in the bottom of the sixth inning, carrying 3rd Force past 1st Marine Aircraft Wing 8-7 in the second of two championship games in the Marine Forces Pacific Regional Softball Tournament. 3rd Force won the first game 15-7.

"I'd been hitting the ball hard both games, every time at bat," said Chaney, who was 6-for-9 with two homers and four RBIs in the two games.

The four-time All-Marine and two-time All-Armed Forces outfielder told himself if the batter

preceding him, Richie Krause, got on, which he did with a walk, "to be patient. If he [Wing pitcher, Todd Harding] gave me something to hit, to swing away. I always hit the ball hard."

He hit it hard on a beeline to toward right-center field, over the head of Wing outfielder Keith Gilchrist and over the collapsible fence, sending the 3rd Force dug-out into hysterics.

3rd Force won the title for the second straight year, but Chaney felt this year's more was satisfying.

"I wouldn't say we breezed last year, but we had a more veteran team," said Chaney, 38, a gunnery sergeant from Hazel Park, Mich. "This year, we had just 13 players, and one got called back to work. Winning if how we won it, and with who we had, I'd say it was more satisfying."

Chaney expressed hope that



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Gary Chaney of 3rd Force Service Support Group went 6-for-9 with two homers and four RBIs in the final two games against 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on Friday at Camp Foster, Okinawa. 3rd Force repeated as Marine Forces Pacific Regional champion with 15-7 and 8-7 victories.

3rd Force's younger players could use his "never-give-up" example to further their careers, in the same way he says he looked up to All-Armed Forces luminaries of the past.

"It isn't so much about me, but the younger guys. They're the next generation," of great Marine ballplayers, Chaney said. "Hopefully, the guys will take something from me and make their own start."

For coach John O'Brien, who retired Aug. 1 after spending eight years playing for and coaching Wing, the victory left him with mixed feelings.

"I hated to do it against my alma mater, but I had to do it," he said.

O'Brien praised his charges, who lost to Wing 12-10 in the dou-

ble-elimination winner's bracket final earlier Friday and came back for the title the hard way.

"Great team. We had guys get hurt, get recalled to duty, but we came out here and everybody showed heart."

So did Wing, which reached the final after losing both its playoff games last year. Only two of the 15 Wing players were considered post-level, including 12-time All-Armed Forces catcher Cherylton McRae.

"I'm very proud of them," McRae said, citing youngsters like Howard, Carlos Cardoza, Michael Stein and Matt Frisvold, all playing in their first regional tournament. "I believe they gave everything they had. You just can't win them all."

E-mail Dave Ornaauer at: ornauid@starsandstripes.com

Marine Forces Pacific Regional Softball scoreboard

At Field 1, Foster Field Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Double-elimination playoffs
Thursday's games
Game 1 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii 4, 3rd Marine Division/Expeditionary Force, Okinawa 5
Game 2 - Iwakuni Air Station, Japan, 6, Marine Corps Base Camp 3, Butler, Okinawa, 3
Game 3 - 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, 12, U.S. Naval Hospital Camp Lester, Okinawa, 4
Game 4 - Base 14, Hospital 1, 5 Inn; Hospital eliminated
Game 5 - 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, 8, Hawaii 4
Game 6 - Wing 15, Iwakuni 6
Game 7 - Division 15, Iwakuni 3, 6 Inn; Iwakuni eliminated
Game 8 - Hawaii 11, Base 9; Base eliminated
Friday's games
Game 9 - Wing 12, 2nd Force 10
Game 10 - Hawaii 15, Division 6; Division eliminated
Game 11 - 3rd Force 6, Hawaii 5; Hawaii eliminated
Game 12 - 3rd Force 15, Wing 7
Game 13 - 3rd Force 8, Wing 7; Wing eliminated
Awards
MVP - Richie Krause, 3rd Force
All-Tournament Coach - John O'Brien, 3rd Force
All-Marine tryout camp selections - Cherylton McRae, Wing; Kevin Healy, Israel Stone, Buster Rony Chapin, Hawaii; Gary Chaney, 3rd Force
All-Tournament team - Lee Burkett, Richie Krause, Dan Sullivan, Gary Chaney, 3rd Force; Cherylton McRae, Wing; Buster Rony Chapin, Joe Sutter, Kevin Healy, Israel Stone, Buster Rony Chapin, Hawaii
Friday's games
Wing 12, 3rd Force 10
Cherylton McRae broke a 10-10 tie with a

solo home run and Michael Stein added an insurance sacrifice fly as Wing rallied from a 10-9 deficit. McRae went 4-for-4 with three RBIs for Wing. Dan Sullivan, Lee Burkett and Anthony Smith each knocked in two runs and Gary Chaney scored twice.
Game 15, Division 6
Hawaii scored seven runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to lead away and eliminate Division 6. Herbie went 1-for-4 with three RBIs and Joe Sutter and Steve Allen each had two solo home runs for Hawaii.
2nd Force & Hawaii 5
Dan Sullivan scored the decisive sacrifice fly proved to be the game-winner as 3rd Force rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win 8-3 with three RBIs. Sullivan and Chaney each had a 3-for-3 performance. Joe Sutter hit a homer and went 2-for-3 with two RBIs.
3rd Force 15, Wing 7
Ed Valera (6-for-5) keyed a seven-run second inning with an inside-the-park grand slam. Gary Chaney went 3-for-5 with a homer. Lee Burkett was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Robert Preston for 2nd Force. Wings Matt Frisvold went 3-for-4 with two RBIs.
Gary Chaney (3-for-4) capped a five-run sixth inning rally with a sacrifice fly with a two-out, three-run home run. Larry Broun and Todd Harding each knocked in a pair of runs for Wing.
Statistics for tryout camp selections
Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Chapin 29 13 5 2 0 6 0 6 0 58 AB
Healy 18 5 5 2 0 0 0 0 0 36 AB
H 18 28 28 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 AB
H 18 5 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 36 AB
3rd Force Service Support Group
Chaney 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 AB
H 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 AB
Sullivan 30 20 15 3 2 1 2 2 3 50 AB
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
McRae 30 20 15 3 2 1 2 2 3 50 AB

Marines beat Navy with bunt in ninth

Stars and Stripes

A well-tapped bunt and an overthrow ball in the ninth inning doomed the U.S. Navy in a 6-5 victory last week in the 15th Annual Navy-Marine Corps All-Star Baseball Game at PETCO Park in San Diego.

Marine Corps' Leo Tapia's bunt and an overthrow ball at first base brought home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth, according to a Navy news report released Thursday.

"We worked as hard as we could for five months," Navy coach Tim Brender said. "It all comes down to this game right here."

"It hurts," said Navy center fielder Quincy Scott, who gave Navy a 3-0 lead with a solo homer in the sixth. "We played all year long to prepare for this game and to come out and perform the way we did and lose is a big let down."

The game was played after a Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Diego Padres contest. Some of the players were playing on a major league field for the first time.

"There are no words to describe what it feels like. I'm in heaven right now," Navy pitcher Joseph Covich said.

Navy pitcher Nathan Guffy threw a no-hitter into the sixth, but it was broken up by Ricky Chavez's single.

Navy took a 3-1 lead in the seventh on an RBI triple by shortstop Frank Kuras and a run-scoring single by catcher Jeff Wisinski.

The Marines tied the game with runs in the seventh and eighth.

The Navy will face the Marine Corps again in an exhibition game on Aug. 12, at Angels Stadium in Anaheim, Calif.



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U.S. buries Serbia in Olympic preview

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — The U.S. Olympic men's basketball team did Larry Brown proud.

Following his mantra of "playing the right way," they dominated the defending world champion with defense in an impressive 78-60 exhibition victory over Serbia-Montenegro on Friday night.

The Americans took a partisan crowd out of the game by holding Serbia-Montenegro to just nine points in the second quarter and the defense never relented. They showed none of the faults that hampered them in earlier games against Italy and Germany while shutting down an opponent that appeared equal parts overconfident and incompetent.

Tim Duncan led the United States with 16 points, LeBron James added 11 and the entire team played with a level of determination that should go a long way toward re-establishing it as one of the favorites for the gold medal in Athens.

When the evening began, the U.S. wasn't even picked to win

the game. Local betting parlors listed the Serbian team as a four-point favorite.

"We are the team that everyone wants to play their best basketball against," Lamar Odom said. "We're playing for a lot, and it means a lot to us."

The U.S. team went 14-for-14 from the free throw line and 30 of 60 from the field while holding the Serbian team to 35 percent shooting overall and 1-for-14 accuracy from three-point range.

A 14-0 run to begin the second quarter put the Americans in control and their defense the rest of the way kept the home team from making any kind of extended rally.

A crowd of about 18,000 showed their respect by standing and applauding the Americans as the game ended.

The game got away from the Serbs early in the second quarter, and the big run brought the American players and coaches off the bench in jubilation. One of the most impressive stretches was a blocked shot by Shawn Marion that led to a breakaway, Marion sprinting downcourt to finish it with a dunk off a pass from Stephen Marbury.

It was 42-26 at halftime.

Payton, Fox off to Boston

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Los Angeles Lakers resumed their makeover Friday by trading Gary Payton and Rick Fox to the Boston

Celtics for Chuckie Atkins, Marcus Banks and Chris Mihm.

The Celtics also received a conditional first-round draft pick and cash in the deal and sent a second-round pick to the Western Conference champions.

The Lakers traded Shaquille O'Neal to Miami and replaced coach Phil Jackson with Rudy Tomjanovich after losing to Detroit in the NBA Finals. Derek Fisher left for Golden State and Vlade Divac, Los Angeles' center from the early '90s, was brought back for another stint.

A nine-time All-Star who averaged 19.3 points per game over his first 13 seasons, Payton averaged 14.6 points — his lowest since the 1992-93 season — and a career-low 4.2 assists last season. He averaged 7.8 points and 5.3 assists in the playoffs.

Fox was a Celtic for six seasons before joining the Lakers and winning three NBA titles. He has averaged 9.6 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists over his career.

Mihm averaged 6.3 points and 5.4 rebounds a game last year and

Atkins averaged 8.4 points and 3.5 assists.

Crawford to Knicks

NEW YORK — Jamal Crawford signed a seven-year deal worth about \$56 million with the Chicago Bulls on Thursday and then was traded to the New York Knicks in a long-awaited, six-player deal. In exchange for Crawford and veteran forward Jerome Williams, Chicago got former Illinois standout Frank Williams, center Dikembe Mutombo, forward Othella Harrington and center Cezary Trybanski.

Crawford was Chicago's leading scorer last season at 17.3 points per game, and Bulls GM John Paxson said it was hard to give up "a terrific talent and a really nice young man." But Paxson is trying to revive a Bulls team that hasn't won more than 30 games since Michael Jordan left, and he needs financial flexibility to do it. Chicago saves about \$18 million in the trade.

Kings' Stojakovic wants out

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Peja Stojakovic said he has told Sacramento Kings president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie that he wants to be traded from the only NBA team for which he has played.

"I think the change would be good for the team and for my-

self," Stojakovic told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "That's the only explanation you're going to get from me."

Stojakovic, the NBA's No. 2 scorer last season with 24.2 points per game, has been with the Kings since entering the league in 1998. But he was upset that the Kings lost countryman Vlade Divac to the Los Angeles Lakers as a free agent and apparently was angered by Chris Webber's offseason comments criticizing unnamed teammates for a lack of toughness.

The Kings were eliminated by Minnesota in the second round of the playoffs.

Taylor back with Cavs, Silas

CLEVELAND — With a chance to play for coach Paul Silas again, Robert "Tractor" Taylor returned to the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday.

The massive forward, who previously played with the Cavaliers in 2000-01, will get the club's million dollar exception — a contract worth approximately \$1.6 million.

Heat sign guard Jones

MIAMI — Free agent point guard Damon Jones signed with the Miami Heat on Friday.

Jones, a six-year veteran, averaged 7 points and 5.8 assists per game for the Milwaukee Bucks last season. He averaged 10 points and 7.4 assists in the playoffs.

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Falcons QB Vick injures hamstring

Team, player insist mishap is not serious

The Associated Press

Michael Vick doesn't understand all the fuss about his rose right hamstring. Neither does his new coach, Jim Mora.

But they understand the concern Atlanta fans have about their star quarterback, who pulled the muscle on Thursday when the Falcons scrimmaged the Titans in Nashville, Tenn.

"It makes it seem like I'm just getting dinged up and injuries are starting to come around a lot. I'll be fine, man," Vick said Friday. "It's just small injuries there, just nagging injuries, things that happen in training camp. It's nothing severe, so I don't know why it's being made a big issue of it."

Mora agreed.

"I don't want it to be a situation where every time they get dinged everyone thinks the sky is falling because it's not," he said. "He's a tough kid. He had an unfortunate injury last year. That doesn't mean he's injury prone. He's not injury prone. He's a big healthy strong man."



Falcons fans can be forgiven for wincing every time Vick calls for a trainer. After breaking his right leg last Aug. 16, he didn't play until Nov. 30. By then, a season that started with so much promise had disintegrated. Vick's return helped salvage two more victories for a 5-11 record.

The way Vick grimaced and grabbed at the back of his right leg Thursday made it appear that the quarterback as dangerous with his legs as with his arm had seriously hurt himself. Vick said he was caught off-guard.

"I know it's something that never happened to me before. I had never felt that type of pain in my muscle. I've never had a problem with my legs," said Vick, who set an NFL record for a quarterback with 1,066 yards rushing in his first two seasons.

Mora said Friday he should have realized the intense interest.

"I can appreciate the people in Atlanta's concerned for him. He's an important part of our team and important part of our community, and we're all concerned when he goes down," Mora said.

Vick was dressed in pads Friday morning, but he didn't take



Atlanta's Michael Vick experienced discomfort after he made a sharp cut to avoid a defender during Thursday's practice with the Tennessee Titans. The quarterback said he dropped practice on Friday.

part in drills. He worked on dropping back before standing around wearing his helmet and watching rookie Matt Schaub take a bigger workload during a joint practice with the Tennessee Titans.

Vick said he just wants to be treated like one of the guys and doesn't want to be singled out.

"I don't have to act like a superstar. You know that shows up when I'm out on the field and throughout my play," Vick said. "That's the way God made me. Like I said, I don't have to go out and act like I'm a big shot. I am. But I know how to control it. I know how to deal with it."

In NFL news on Friday:

■ Browns linebacker and special teams captain Bryant Brown broke a bone in his right foot during practice and is out indefinitely.

■ Miami wide receiver David Boston injured his left knee during a joint workout with the Houston Texans. Boston was running a pass route when his left knee buckled.

Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt said the initial diagnosis was a strained patellar tendon but that more testing would be done.

In NFL news Thursday:

■ Jimmy Kennedy, the St.

Louis Rams' first-round draft pick a year ago, broke his right foot Thursday and could be out for the season. The 330-pound defensive tackle was injured during a non-contact drill.

He will have surgery next week for a fractured fifth metatarsal in his right foot, the Rams said. He will be out three to four months.

■ Jerry Azumah, the Chicago Bears' Pro Bowl kick returner, will undergo neck surgery for a disc problem and will be sidelined three to four months, the team said.

Azumah, a starting defensive back, led the NFL in kickoff return average last season and ran two back for touchdowns.

Coach Louis Smith said it was premature to discuss whether the injury was career-threatening.

■ Prosecutors in Nashville, Tenn., said they will seek to drop drug-driving and gun charges against Titans quarterback Steve McNair because a judge ruled two weeks ago that police didn't have sufficient cause to stop him.

■ Cincinnati's second-round pick Kevin Ratliff reached an agreement on a four-year contract. Running back Chris Perry, the team's first-round, remains unsigned.

■ Seattle center Robbie Tobeck missed practice after straining his right calf the previous day, and trainers said he could miss up to two weeks.

Artist: Sanders' rush to glory was unique

ARTIST. FROM BACK PAGE

wife and three children, plays golf about once a week, and has some business interests. When his 10-year-old, 3-year-old and 5-month-old sons are older, he'd like to travel the world.

"Honestly, I want to see every place there is," Sanders said.

In his book, "Barry Sanders: Now You See Him..." Sanders said he always respected the defensive schemes Tony Dungy devised while he was Minnesota's defensive coordinator and Tampa Bay's coach.

Dungy, now Indianapolis' coach, said there was only so much he could do.

"You really couldn't design a defense for him because he'd make plays that weren't there," Dungy said. "With Barry, you could play everything perfectly and he would still run for a lot of yards."

At 5 feet 8, 203 pounds, Sanders didn't look special standing still. With the ball, however, Sanders was spectacular as his powerful legs and quick feet made jaw-dropping moves rarely seen before, or since.

Sanders, the third pick overall in 1989 draft after winning the Heisman Trophy at Oklahoma State, was the first NFL player to run for 1,000 yards in each of his first 10 seasons.

In 1997, he became the first to run for 100 yards in 14 games during the same season, and did it in consecutive games. He was the third player to run for 2,000 yards, gaining 2,053, and shared the MVP award with Brett Favre.

The 10-time Pro Bowler was the first to run for 1,500 yards five times, and was the first to do it in four straight seasons.

He trails Payton and Emmitt Smith in career rush-



Barry Sanders, a 10-time Pro Bowler, is one of five NFL players to run for 2,000 yards in a season.

ing yardage, but Smith said he would still be chasing Sanders' mark if he didn't retire with plenty of life in his legs.

"Barry had not only the best chance of getting the record, but blowing the record way out, setting it in the 20,000-yard area," Smith has said.

Unlike many Hall of Famers, Sanders never had a chance to play for a championship. Sanders led Detroit to the playoffs five times and to one win over Dallas in 1991, its only postseason victory since winning the 1957 NFL title.

But that doesn't tarnish his legacy.

"The best football player I've ever watched was Lawrence Taylor, and the best running back I've seen in 25 years is Barry Sanders," former NFL linebacker Matt Millen, the Lions' general manager, said. "It's not even close. It's going to be a long, long time before we see another like him, if we do."

Testaverde feels ready to run Dallas' offense

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — When Bill Parcells told Vinny Testaverde that his big week, the 40-year-old quarterback knew that was a good thing.

Testaverde got what he hoped for when he reunited with Parcells this summer in Dallas. All ways one of Parcells' favorite players, he is now the coach's starting quarterback instead of being the Cowboys' backup.

"He said to me, 'You're giving me your boxing gloves back?' I said, 'You want them?'" Parcells said Thursday. "He said, 'That's what I came here for.' That was the conversation."

That came Wednesday, after the Cowboys suddenly and unexpectedly released Quincy Carter, the quarterback drafted by owner Jerry Jones three years ago to be Troy Aikman's successor.

Carter led the Cowboys to 10 victories and back to the playoffs in Parcells' first year, and was the opening-game starter each of the three seasons. But there were widespread reports that Carter failed a drug test.

The team remained vague Thursday about the reasons for Carter's release. Jones again refused to specifically address the reports and Parcells said he was focused on the future.

"I'm not going to talk about this subject anymore. It's not worth it,

doesn't really mean anything now," Parcells said. "I want to go where I know I've got to go now."

That means getting Testaverde ready as the starter for the Sept. 12 season opener at Minnesota and determining whether Drew Henson or Tony Romo, neither of whom has played in an NFL game, can be the backup.

Testaverde, going into his 18th season, hasn't played 16 games in a season since 2001. His seven games last year with the Jets came in place of injured Chad Pennington, who became New York's starter two years ago.

But Testaverde didn't consider retirement. He continued daily four-hour workouts on his own until signing with the Cowboys two months ago.

"I can't sit here and tell you I'm going to make it through the season. Not very many starting quarterbacks have made it through a full season, no matter what the age," Testaverde said. "But I know I've worked my butt off to give myself the best chance to go through a full season."

The Cowboys will alter some of their offensive plans to suit Testaverde, a classic dropback passer, one of the few players with more than 40,000 yards passing. But that doesn't necessarily mean there will be drastic changes without the scrambling Carter. The offense is similar to what Testaverde ran with the Jets in 1998, when he was a Pro Bowl selection under Parcells.

SPORTS



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in five-player deal; U.S. routs Serbia
in Olympic tuneup, Page 46

Escape artist

On the field and into retirement,
Sanders left an elusive legacy

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — When Barry Sanders gets his first glimpse of the sea of gold blazers at the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Sunday, it might make him want to do something he hasn't done in five years. "I will probably feel like suiting up again," he said, laughing. If Sanders did, he would probably juke any of the greats of the game that tried to tackle him.

Sanders, one of the NFL's most elusive and exciting running backs, will be inducted in Canton, Ohio, along with John Elway, Carl Eller and Bob Brown.

Sanders ran for 15,269 yards in 10 seasons with the Detroit Lions. Then, within one average season of surpassing Walter Payton's rushing record, he suddenly retired soon after his 31st birthday just before training camp in 1999.

He will go into the Hall of Fame about two weeks after Ricky Williams' stunning retirement at the age of 27.

"Yeah, it is sort of eerie," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Ricky is obviously younger than I was, but leaving the game is a personal thing that we all struggle with."

Fans across the state of Michigan struggled for a long time with the fact Sanders retired, and the way he did it.

Sanders announced his decision through a written statement released by his hometown newspaper, The Wichita (Kan.) Eagle. He then eluded reporters as if they were trying to tackle him for four-plus years.

Last winter, Sanders had his first news conference since his retirement to answer questions and promote his book. He acknowledged the way he retired was "a little clumsy," and shot down rumors, including the one that the move was a ploy to be traded.

After being booed at a Detroit Pistons game, Sanders drew cheers when he was shown on the scoreboard during one of their games this year.

"Initially, I think some fans were disappointed, or angry, because they thought my retirement was about something manipulative," Sanders said. "But that's not the type of person I am."

When Sanders scored one of his 109 touchdowns, he simply flipped the football to an official, or handed it off, and jogged away.

"We would try to get him to spike the ball — just one time — but he wouldn't do it," said Kevin Glover, Sanders' center in Detroit and a close friend.

When reporters gathered around Sanders after games or practices, he wondered why people wanted to talk to him. In an era of look-at-me athletes, he wanted the public to look elsewhere.

"I was just never comfortable with being in the spotlight," he said. "I don't have to worry about that now."

Sanders spends most of his time in suburban Detroit with his

Rushing his way into Hall of Fame

Former Detroit Lions running back, Barry Sanders, one of the NFL's most electrifying runners, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Sunday, along with John Elway, Carl Eller and Bob Brown.



Sanders

BARRY SANDERS • Running back
1989-98 Detroit Lions

Drafted: First-round pick of the
1989 draft by the Lions

► Heisman Trophy winner, 1988

► First player to rush for 1,000
yards in his first 10 seasons

► Selected to 10 Pro Bowls

► Led NFL in rushing four times

► NFL's Most Valuable Player,
1997

Rushing (Career)

G	NO	YDS	AVG	TDS
153	3,062	15,269	5.0	99

AP



Clemens
gets an
apology
for his
'unjust'
ejection
from
10-year-old
son's
game

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3rd Force wins another
Marine Pacific tourney
softball crown

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Rolen's
tie-breaking
homer in eighth
boosts Cardinals;
slumping
White Sox lose
again in K.C.

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